

God Helps Those Who Help Themselves ...NOT!

Genesis Chapter 16

Gen 16:1 Helping Not God vs 1-3

- *A review*
 - Ch 12 God calls Abram. Make a unilateral covenant "I will..."
 - Ch 13 Land given to Abram
 - Ch 14 Abram's 318 beat 4 Kingdoms (God Thing)
 - Ch 15 Word of the Lord comes to Abram concerning seed
 - An illustrated unilateral covenant pieces cut and only God passes through the bloody animal parts. God establishes, God sets terms, God fulfills terms

Now Sarai, Abram's wife had borne him no {children,} and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar.

Gen 16:2 So Sarai said to Abram, "Now behold, the LORD has prevented me from bearing {children.} Please go in to my maid; perhaps I will obtain children through her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

Gen 16:3 After Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Abram's wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife.

- *A cultural practice of the day. The text does not give a moral judgment of this practice. Yet God does not accept this offspring. Verse 5 Sarai says she was wrong. She was.*
- *Un-Belief was what was wrong. We tend to miss it because of the odd practice of a husband having children with his wife's handmaid.*
- *How much of our sin is actually a result of unbelief?*

Gen 16:4 How Not to Handle Problems vs 4-6

He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight.

Gen 16:5 And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done me be upon you. I gave my maid into your arms, but when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her sight. May the LORD judge between you and me."

Gen 16:6 But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your maid is in your power; do to her what is good in your sight." So Sarai treated her harshly, and she fled from her presence.

- *Hagar Flaunts* *Should have humbly cherished the blessing and had compassion on her that didn't have the blessing*
- *Sarai blame shifts* *Should have confessed her own sin and dealt with correction there, not justify by having someone else deal with the consequences. Remember Adam & Eve?*
- *Abram avoids leadership* *Should have (2 times) trusted, and lead his wife in trusting the promise of the Lord. If he would have quickly corrected Sarai's unbelief at the beginning (vs.2) he wouldn't be in this position. Be here he is. Now he should do the same, He should correct Hagar's arrogance, Sarai's unbelief, jealousy, inadequacy.*
- *Hagar flees* *Should have*

Gen 16:7 **Hagar is not Horrible** vs 7-16

Now the angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur.

- Vs 7, 9, 10, 11 Angel of the Lord (1st mention) vs 13 called God
- Theophany - 1st Theophany to Hagar (Egyptian, Victim, Abandoned Woman, Single Mom)
- He comes to her ("Leaves the 99 to save the one")
- Psalm 139:1-12 God knows where we are and where we run to

Gen 16:8 He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from and where are you going?" And she said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai."

- What is the direction of your life
 - Where have you been? (evaluate your life as you controlled it)
 - Where do you want to go?
- Called by her name (God knows her)
- Calls her Sarai's maid not Abram's wife or runaway or victim

Gen 16:9 Then the angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself to her authority."

Gen 16:10 Moreover, the angel of the LORD said to her, "I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count."

Gen 16:11 The angel of the LORD said to her further, "Behold, you are with child, And you will bear a son; And you shall call his name Ishmael, Because the LORD has given heed to your affliction.

- Ishmael - God Hears - 1st child named before birth
- "given heed to your affliction"

Gen 16:12 "He will be a wild donkey of a man, His hand {will be} against everyone, And everyone's hand {will be} against him; And he will live to the east of all his brothers."

- Wild Donkey of a Man
 - Wise to live and survive where no one else can
 - Rugged Survivor
 - Independent
 - Stubborn
 - Uncooperative

Gen 16:13 Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God who sees"; for she said, "Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?"

- Sense of seeing God and you will die.

Gen 16:14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered.

- Beerlahaioi - The one who is alive and sees.

Gen 16:15 So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.

Gen 16:16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to him.

- Galatians 4:22-28

Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he [who was] of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman [was] by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the

mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, [thou] barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

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