

I Am: Part 4

The God Who Sees

Pastor James Bell

John 8:58 NLT

58 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM!"

Genesis 16:4–13 NLT

4 So Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt. 5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she's pregnant she treats me with contempt. The LORD will show who's wrong—you or me!" 6 Abram replied, "Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit." Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away. 7 The angel of the LORD found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. 8 The angel said to her, "Hagar, Sarai's servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress, Sarai," she replied. 9 The angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority." 10 Then he added, "I will give you more descendants than you can count." 11 And the angel also said, "You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means 'God hears'), for the LORD has heard your cry of distress. 12 This son of yours will be a wild man, as untamed as a wild donkey! He will raise his fist against everyone, and everyone will be against him. Yes, he will live in open hostility against all his relatives." 13 Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the LORD, who had spoken to her. She said, "You are the God who sees me." She also said, "Have I truly seen the One who sees me?"

Here we are again with another story about Abraham but this time the focus is around a servant names Hagar. Hagar is not spoken about much at all within scripture but she is known as the mother of Ishmael. And people may associate her as a bad or evil person but Hagar was not evil. She did not have a choice in her role. She simply did as she was told. She did have a bit of an attitude from the situation but which one of us don't?

As we bring our attention to the latter part of verse six, Hagar fled the scene in hopes to escape mistreatment. She ran away. And this is what human tendency looks like. We run from the situation instead of facing it. We run from the very one we belong to. The one who called us to serve His Kingdom. But verse seven is where the plot of this story that must begin to speak to us. Hagar was found in the wilderness. The volume of this verse is symbolic to each of us. That at one point in time God found us wondering in the wilderness. But where was Hagar before this? She was serving her master. She was serving and now she was fleeing. Is this story starting to sound familiar? This is or has been us at some point or from time to time. Fleeing from what God has called us for, to serve.

Hagar had traveled 75-80 miles from where she was in Hebron. She was found in the wilderness along the road that led to Shur which is on the northwestern border of Egypt. She was returning back to what she was familiar with. If we put this in the spiritual sense then we must understand that when we are fleeing from where we belong, at the service of the Master, then we are returning back to sin. At the beginning of verse eight we must notice that God called her by name. When we are called by name it is personal and it is meant to get our attention. As you sit here this morning and as you are hearing this message, I want you to hear the voice of the LORD calling your name. He is making this message and this moment personal.

After God called Hagar by name He then asked a rhetorical question. "Where did you come from and where are you going?" Why would such a question be asked if God already knows the answer? He was tuning Hagar's heart back to the reality. The question could be looked at physically or spiritually. The physical is in the reference to a geographical location. She was native to Egypt and was returning back to Egypt. But when the LORD speaks to us He is always referring to us spiritually. Where did you come from? Hagar came from a place of blessings and a place where the presence of the LORD frequented. Where are you going? Egypt is the place of bondage. The place where God wants to deliver us from. So why would she return back to bondage? Why would we return back to bondage?

Hagar replied that she was fleeing from her mistress. Hagar could have chosen to lie. She could have tried to conceal the matter but her response tells us that she knew that she could hide nothing. No matter how far she had fled from her calling. No matter how long she had been gone. Who she was no matter time or distance is seen by the I Am. The I Am that sees all. Nothing hidden from his eyes. And His call to her is so beautiful in verse nine. "Return to your mistress and submit to her authority". When our eyes are open to the truth that I Am sees me, then we are challenged to return back to our Master, I Am. And in our returning we must submit to His authority.

If you are sitting here this morning I need you to know that no matter how far you have ran. No matter how long you have been on the run, God has his eyes on you and he is calling your name and seeking to get your attention. He wants you to realize that He is the I Am who sees. He knows where you come from and where you are heading. He is speaking to your hearts right now and he calling for you return back to Him. The return must intel that you submit to His authority. Just as the LORD told Hagar to return He also called her to submit. It is not just enough to call Him LORD, we must make Him LORD.

In her return and submitting to authority she was promised the blessings or more children and descendants. A blessing that could only come from God. The I Am that sees is the same I Am that blesses. This tells us that blessings proceed from obedience. The blessings of what money cannot purchase. The blessings of God cannot happen until we return and submit to His LORDship. God will not bless rejection and disobedience. The blessings of God are conditional to His word.

Hagar referred to the LORD as the God who sees me. She had a revelation about I Am that she never had before. But here is what is so profound. Her statement within verse thirteen is a declaration. She was declaring that God sees her despite her running. She declares that God sees her no matter how far she had removed herself from Him. She declares that God sees her no matter how long she had been gone. She declares that in the mist of troubles that God sees her. She declares that God knows her from the inside out. She declares that nothing is hidden from God. Her declaration could not be spoken until she had a revelation.

All throughout scripture we will see that God's eyes were always upon His people. There was never a situation that God was caught by surprise.

Psalm 139:1-4 NLT

1 O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. 2 You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. 3 You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. 4 You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD.

Psalm 33:13-14 NLT

13 The LORD looks down from heaven and sees the whole human race. 14 From his throne he observes all who live on the earth.

Jeremiah 16:17 NLT

17 I am watching them closely, and I see every sin. They cannot hope to hide from me.

Jeremiah 23:24 NLT

24 Can anyone hide from me in a secret place? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?" says the LORD.

Proverbs 5:21 NLT

21 For the LORD sees clearly what a man does, examining every path he takes.

Job 34:21 NLT

21 "For God watches how people live; he sees everything they do.

Job 31:4 NLT

4 Doesn't he see everything I do and every step I take?

2 Chronicles 16:9 NLT

9 The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. What a fool you have been! From now on you will be at war."

Hebrews 4:12-13 NLT

12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

2 Kings 6:15-20 NLT

15 When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. "Oh, sir, what will we do now?" the young man cried to Elisha. 16 "Don't be afraid!" Elisha told him. "For there are more on our side than on theirs!" 17 Then Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes and let him see!" The LORD opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire. 18 As the Aramean army advanced toward him, Elisha prayed, "O LORD, please make them blind." So the LORD struck them with blindness as Elisha had asked. 19 Then Elisha went out and told them, "You have come the wrong way! This isn't the right city! Follow me, and I will take you to the man you are looking for." And he led them to the city of Samaria. 20 As soon as they had entered Samaria, Elisha prayed, "O LORD, now open

their eyes and let them see.” So the LORD opened their eyes, and they discovered that they were in the middle of Samaria.

When we return and submit then we will see what He sees. When we harken to the word of God then our eyes become open to see that the I Am is always fighting for us. Our enemy does not stand a chance and the victory is ours just as it was for Israel and Hagar. Will you return and submit to His LORDship ?

Let me pray with you!