

SURVIVING THE DESERT

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Here are four life-applicable points from the life of Hagar to empower you to drop the bitterness and pick up your blessing.

1. RUNNING ON EMPTY

Scripture:

Genesis 21:15 KJV

And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs.

Mothers, so many of you are operating on a "bottle" of energy, a "bottle" of patience, and a "bottle" of finances. And when the water is spent, panic sets in. You have given your last drop to your children, your job, and your household, and now you are looking at an empty container wondering how you are going to survive.

But you have to understand that God will sometimes allow the bottle to run dry so you can discover the well. You cannot let the trauma of what ran out blind you to what God is about to pour in. The end of human resources is the exact starting point of divine intervention. Stop looking at the empty bottle, and stop looking back at the person who handed it to you. The empty bottle is not a sign of your failure as a mother; it is a setup for a miracle. God is getting you out of the business of relying on temporary handouts so He can introduce you to sustainable, generational supply.

2. STEPPING BACK SO GOD CAN STEP IN

Scripture:

Genesis 21:16 KJV

And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept.

Commentary:

There is a unique agony that only a mother knows—the pain of watching your child suffer and realizing you do not have the power to fix it. Hagar puts Ishmael under a shrub and walks away about a bowshot distance. She wasn't abandoning him; she was protecting her own heart from the trauma of watching him perish. Notice what she is weeping over in this moment. She is not weeping over her ex-situation. Her tears are not tied to her past abusers; her tears are an intercession for her son's future. When you are dealing with trauma, bitterness will keep you looking backward at whoever hurt you, but radical love will keep you looking forward to who needs you.

This bowshot distance is the distance of surrender. It takes a massive level of faith to admit, "I cannot fix this, I cannot heal this, and I cannot control this." Hagar lifted her voice and wept. She let out the raw, unfiltered cry of a mother desperate for a turnaround, and she aimed that cry toward Heaven, not toward Abraham's tent. It is time to stop carrying the heavy burden of trying to be the savior for your children. You are their mother, but God is their Savior. When you step back and release them into the hands of God, you give Heaven the room to operate on their behalf.

3. GOD'S STRATEGY FOR YOUR STRUGGLE

Scripture:

Genesis 21:17 KJV

And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is.

Commentary:

Notice the powerful dynamic in this text: Hagar is the one weeping, but the Bible says God heard the voice of the lad. Yet, when Heaven responds, the angel speaks directly to Hagar! God can speak clearly to this mother because her spiritual ears

are not clogged with the noise of offense and resentment. God hears the cries of your children, but He empowers the mother with the instruction. The angel asks her, "What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not." God validates her pain, but He challenges her mindset. He tells her not to allow the stronghold of fear to paralyze her purpose.

God is telling you today that He hears what your children are going through. He hears their confusion, their struggles, and their pain. But He is giving the strategy to you. He is breaking the self-sabotaging mindset that tells you it is over just because someone walked out on you. The instruction to Hagar in the very next verse is to "Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand." God is saying, "I heard him, but I need you to hold him." You have the strength to lift up your family. The trauma of the desert did not disqualify you; it prepared you to hold the promise with a tighter grip.

4. YOU NEED A NEW REVELATION

Scripture:

Genesis 21:19 KJV

And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink.

Commentary:

This is the most shouting point of the entire text. God did not send a rainstorm. God did not drop a new water bottle from the sky. The Bible says God opened her eyes, and she saw a well. The well was already there! Hagar was crying over an empty bottle while sitting next to a full well. You cannot see the well if you are still staring in the direction of the man who gave you the bottle. Hagar's refusal to be bitter kept her vision clear enough for God to open her eyes.

Emotional trauma, holding onto grudges, and the sting of rejection will put scales on your eyes and make you think you are dying in a desert when you are actually sitting next to your deliverance.

Mothers, you do not need a new location; you do not need an apology from the people who hurt you; you need a new revelation. God is about to open your eyes to the resources, the business ideas, the healing, and the relationships that are already in your life. What you need is in your peripheral vision, but the pain of the past will try to keep you entirely focused on the problem. When God opens your eyes, you will see that you have always been equipped. You will take that same

bottle that used to represent your lack, dip it into God's endless well, and give your children the drink of life. You are not a victim of this desert; you are the victor who found the well.