

THE GOD WHO SEES

GENESIS 16

2/15/26

I. REAL LIFE PROBLEMS

Genesis 16:1-2a - "Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children... and Sarai said to Abram, 'Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children...'"

Abram and Sarai reveal six failures to avoid when faced with real life problems:

1. Listening to the wrong people

Genesis 16:2 - "And Sarai said to Abram, 'Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.' And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai."

2. Expecting past experiences to ensure present obedience

Genesis 16:3a - "So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan..."

3. Elevating societal norms above God's Word

Genesis 16:3b - "...Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife."

4. Choosing short term solutions with long term consequences

Genesis 16:4 - "And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress."

5. Blaming others for your own choices

Genesis 16:5 - "And Sarai said to Abram, 'May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!'"

6. Encouraging people to follow their hearts

Genesis 16:6 - "But Abram said to Sarai, 'Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please. Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.'"

II. GOD SHOWS UP

In difficult times we must...

1. Evaluate our situation

Genesis 16:8 - "And he said, 'Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?' She said, 'I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai.'"

2. Understand that sometimes the right thing is the hard thing

Genesis 16:9 - "The angel of the Lord said to her, 'Return to your mistress and submit to her.'"

3. Believe God controls the future

Genesis 16:10 - "The angel of the Lord also said to her, 'I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude.'"

III. THREE TRUTHS ABOUT GOD FOR DIFFICULT TIMES

1. God hears and listens

Genesis 16:11 - "And the angel of the Lord said to her, 'Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has listened to your affliction.'"

2. God predicts the struggle

Genesis 16:12 - "He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen."

3. God sees us and cares for us

Genesis 16:13 - "So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, 'You are a God of seeing,' for she said, 'Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.'"

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something that stood out to you in the sermon this week that challenged your thinking?
2. Which one of the six failures of Abram and Sarai is hardest for you to avoid in difficult times? Why?
3. This passage comes right after God's covenant with Abram. What does this tell you about human nature? Of the six failures, which one do you think allowed them to make such a bad choice?
4. In difficult times, which of the three is the hardest for you to practice? Why?
5. Of the three truths about God, which one helps you most in difficult times? Why?
6. Share a difficult time you are going through or have gone through when God showed up. Pray for members of your group who are going through these times right now.