

The Eyes of the Lord

Part 2

Genesis 16 NIV

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; **2** so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Abram agreed to what Sarai said. **3** So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. **4** He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. **5** Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me."

6 "Your slave is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

7 The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur.

8 And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

"**I'm running away** from my mistress Sarai," she answered.

9 Then the angel of the Lord told her, "**Go back** to your mistress and submit to her." **10** The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."

11 The angel of the Lord also said to her:

"You are now pregnant

and you will give birth to a son.

You shall name him Ishmael,

for the Lord has heard of your misery.

12

He will be a wild donkey of a man;

his hand will be against everyone

and everyone's hand against him,
and he will live in hostility
toward all his brothers."

13 She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: *"You are the God who sees me,"* for she said, *"I have now seen the One who sees me."*

What's special about this story:

1. It shows how things can quickly become a mess when we do things our way instead of God's way...
2. It shows how even in the mess:
God Cares for us...
God Sees us...
God Leads us...

Vs. 7 The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert

Vs. 8 She was running away - And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

"I'm running away"

Vs. 9 Then the angel of the Lord told her, **"Go back"**

First Thing: God Hears and He Cares

God is close to the broken hearted...

As a matter of fact, like with Hagar, God is close to broken people in broken situations...

Just like in part 1, Manasseh was *in distress... and sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his ancestors and when he prayed to him, the Lord was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; 2 Chronicles 33:12,13*

Psalm 51:17

a broken and contrite heart,
O God, you will not despise

Hagar is in a situation that she never asked for...

- she is broken...
- she is lonely...
- she is scared...
- she probably felt unwanted, unloved and misunderstood...

But in her situation she discovered something; the eyes of the Lord were on Her...

1 Peter 5:5

“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”

I love how in the Chosen Series, the producers and directors develop a storyline for each of the Disciples: The story of Nathaniel was powerful in Season 2 Episode 2

John 1

45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

46 “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

48 “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

49 Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."

50 Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that."

- Is there anything that could have meant more to Nathanael than to know that God see's him...
- I know we believe that God see's us, But it takes on a whole new meaning when we encounter Him this way...
- The Lord says to Nathanael, I saw you...
- For Hagar - The angel of the Lord found her near a spring in the desert, because he was watching her...
- When we feel alone... God was watching...
- When we feel no one understands... God was watching

Second Thing: God See's - There might be someone here today that knows what it's like to be broken and lonely or scared.

The Lord wants you to know that in those moments he see's you...

I remember praying this prayer something like this at a young age; God if you are there, will you help me...

Can I tell you, God hears prayers like that...

I wonder if Hagar prayed something like that, when she was hiding by that spring in the desert?

Story: Stuck on I-70 in a winter storm

Vs. 13

She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.”

He wants you to know that his name is El Roi

Third Thing: God Leads

Vs. 9,10

9 Then the angel of the Lord told her, “**Go back** to your mistress and submit to her.” **10** The angel added, “I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count.”

The Lord leads us like a Shepherd leads a lamb...

When someone constantly watches you they are called a stalker...

When God constantly watches you it's because he cares...

It's the difference between watching you and watching over you...

Psalm 121

1

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?

2

My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

3

He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;

4

indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

5

The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade (*defense, protection*) at your right hand;

6

the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

7

The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;

8

the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

In Psalm 23 David says these words
“The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want”

- Do you know one good reason why Sheep trust their Shepherd...
- Because sheep can only see from two feet off the ground and the Shepherd can see from six...
- The Shepherd can see what the Sheep can't...

King David says the Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want, lack or fail.

He is El Roi - The Lord who sees me...

He Cares for us...

He Sees us...

He Leads us...

Closing Song: