

Genesis 16 - Sarai Said to Abram

Who do you speak to on a daily basis?

- *Are there people you find yourself speaking to more than others?*
- *Speaking to you more than others?*
- *Some you like, dislike?*
- *Who do you take advice from?*
- *Is there advice godly? Do they trust God? Does their trust in God inspire you to trust Him more?*
- *Does their advice lead you to trust in Him more, them more, or you more?*
"Follow your heart...listen to me...what has the Lord said?"

Abram gets some advice that he follows, from someone he should be able to get advice from, someone he's designed to get advice from...his wife

Men need advice.

Product Reviews, directions, maps,

A lot of places to get them from, some good, some bad
but most of all they need to be able to get it, and more than advice, Godly counsel, from their wives.

Pro 19:20-21 KJV - Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end. [There are] many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

Wives? Are you prepared to give godly counsel to your husbands?

Husbands? Are you prepared to receive godly counsel from your wives?

Genesis 16:1-4

PG-13 message today

Sarai had borne Abram no children - the worth of a woman tied up in childbirth, a grievous thing for any woman I'm sure, but in their culture, it was so important to have an heir

God's promise to them, one born in his house, not Eleazar of Damascus

And she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar (flight)

Where and when do you think she picked up this Egyptian maidservant...Egypt perhaps? Pharaoh's household maybe?

We should probably take note that these two sentences are in the same verse. They really tell the story in one verse.

Sarai couldn't give Abram children in her flesh, so she gives her servant by the flesh

Wait, didn't God say it wouldn't be a servant? Someone born in his house?

Well, Ishmael would be born in his house...but this isn't what God intended.

God will hear - I almost get the impression of a fleshly response, naming it and claiming it...GOD WILL HEAR ME. He hasn't answered my prayer before when I asked, but when I do this, he has to answer.

It wasn't God's best, it wasn't God's OK, it just wasn't even at all what God had wanted.

So often that is our fleshly carrying out to meet a natural, physical or even spiritual desire. No rationale, no justification, just shouldn't have happened

Her name means flight, like we'll read about her running away later

But were they running out of Egypt, were they rushing to get a fulfillment of God's promise to them of a baby?

Be careful what we begin to lump together in life. Our thoughts, our habits, where we go, where we do, what advice, what friends...is there anything in your life that belongs in another sentence or just shouldn't be spoken of altogether?

Eph 5:6-11/12-17 KJV - Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now [are ye] light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit [is] in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove [them]. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord [is].

The world loves to talk about things done in secret. To make the things done perversely in secret the center of public attention.

It is shameful even to speak of it. To give it any glory by giving it the time of day in our words and conversation and thought.

V2 - Sarai blames God, or at least puts the onus on him...it is God who makes babies, so God hasn't given us one

She says restrained me

God has held me back from this

Sounds spiritual right? But if it was, she would be looking for God to act and not making her own way to be unrestrained in the promise.

God's promises lead to God's miracles. God's promises are never directly answered by our own doings

...So Sarai said to Abram...eh, here it goes...sooo, these two thoughts, the want to have a baby, and it's not happening, let's make it happen...

In vitro...all the "embryos..." babies that didn't make it...

Not condemning you if you have, I have family who have tried that way, but is it really the answer God would have for us?

Perhaps i shall obtain children by her...lady, you'll never obtain children from another lady by force.

Adoption, wonderful.

The idea of three parent children now...if it works, that poor child. What a crisis of identity, authority, structure in his or her little life. Can you imagine? All trying to do things in the face of God.

Perhaps we think we can make the perfect baby there. Or two dads or two mom's DNA...

Carrying for someone else...one hand beautiful, but again, in vitro, what about the rest of the babies? These things are things we probably should have never had to think about

But nothing new under the sun...

Please Abram, sleep with this younger woman and have a baby. How many times did it take her to get pregnant? How was their relationship otherwise? How willing was she?

She couldn't say no, she was a servant...

Abram heeded the voice of his wife...what's abram's thought process? You know, it's been quite some time again since god promised, ten years in fact, it hasn't happened...maybe i misunderstood, maybe i've got to cobble a plan together...still hanging on the flesh

I don't get the sense that Abram heeding his wife's advice was all that difficult...sure, OK babe, if you say so, I guess I'll give it a shot ... Abram was a dog, all men are dogs...

Strange relationships in the news all the time...it's not a glory to be involved in these things, and it shows by the criminal news resulting from torn hearts and twisted motives

There's no circumstance that makes being with another woman OK, even if your wife told you to. This will not make her happy.

There will be jealousy as we'll see here. **Resentment.** How could there not be? Intimacy is for marriage.

There's a reason God gives a pass for people who get divorced over adultery...the wound is just too deep sometimes...I pray nothing ever happens like that to us, but even if and when it is forgiven and the marriage moves on, i'm sure it's never the same, even in the grace of God.

Well, you know what happens? She conceived. Big surprise. People these days seem to forget that's what happens and that's what it's for.

It was an accident...how? You knew full well that if you do that than in all likelihood....baby.

No one's an accident, if your parents think that, it's because they thought they could drive off a cliff and not crash. And I guarantee they knew full well it could happen and it anyway...

Hagar starts showing and either when she showed her the results of the pregnancy test, or it was obvious she was pregnant...Sarai despised her

How could she not? She and Abram had been together so long and she couldn't have a baby. she , in desperation gives Hagar away, with the intent of a baby coming and finding the joy of an answered promise of God in it...but what does sowing to the flesh result in? Death...their close relationship now becomes despising her...because the very thing promised to her, and wasn't happening, no matter how hard they tried, now happened so quickly with her handmaid

I don't blame her...how could you feel any different? Approving a physical betrayal and the very thing you've always desired is now someone else's and they barely wanted it and certainly didn't do much to get it.

Abram should have kept laying down in God's covenant and not gotten up to lay down anywhere else.

Sleep in the same bed. At least give each other time in the same sentence together.

1Co 7:1-6 NKJV - Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: [It is] good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband [does]. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife [does]. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment.

You get it. I don't need to explain this. If you say you don't, you just don't want to admit the reality, that we are not our own.

- *Poor Sarai to feel so desperate and rejected, even by God (even though he hadn't...) to resort to such a measure and the emotional turmoil and ensuing drama*
- *Poor Hagar to be put in that position. And now despising her master for it and taking her place but not having all the benefits of being Abram's true wife*
- *Foolish Abram, you knew what you were doing, just like Adam*

How often is that...we know what we are doing...we may even know God's command, or promise, even in the moment...yet it really is just a matter of not being willing to wait

:5-10

Abram gets the what for...my wrong be upon you

In truth though, it was...he should have been her covering...there to protect her from the consequence of this colossal mistake

Men, our own selfishness to meet our own desires (no matter what they are, even if our wife tells us to go and do it) will only come back to hurt them

Abram tries to make peace, Sarai, do what you want...I can't fix this, we don't have to keep her around for my sake

No birth is a mistake. Even if it was by rape, that child has worth (and I'm not belittling the horror and tragedy of the situation)

Abortion of children by rape...the child is being given the death penalty for the father's crime. But that child has worth, even if the parents came together by violence and force, and not by love

Because by that standard...where on the sliding scale of lust to love does someone get their worth? The answer is no where. The child gets their worth because despite the circumstance, they are made in the image of God. And He loves them.

V6 - the girl named flight, flees

This poor girl

I love this verse...

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

God went out looking for her. A Christophany.

Jesus knew a thing or two about meeting an unwanted woman at the well...

Jhn 4:10 NKJV - Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

God tells her to go back!

Eph 6:5-9 NKJV - Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether [he is] a slave or free. And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Every relationship in life has an order about it. It cannot be healed unless that order is submitted to.

A husband and wife's marriage will never be healed until the husband loves the wife and lays his life down for her like Jesus and until she respectfully submits, even if she totally disagrees at times (what abram and sarai should have done)

Your relationship with your boss will never be fixed until you treat them with respect and obedience as your boss. Even if they are also your friend...

When the relationship breaks, we cannot redefine it to fix it. We must instead recommit our dedication to it. Even if it means going back to it.

I think we leave our relationships all too quickly these days - even if the reason is valid.
How long do people stay at jobs, stay in relationships, friendships...

We've forgotten about forgiveness and the power God shows through it to heal, repair, fix, mend and most importantly...MAKE NEW

**God extends the promise, even though she inherited it by the flesh
God is so willing to make things right with people who have been wronged
Give them things they were never promised as if they were**

The difference between her child and the coming child, her promise for Sarai's child's promise...the spiritual heir

One would just be a people multiplied, the other would be God's chosen people, multiplied

No amount of rationalization or justification will make a fleshly relationship receive god's full blessing

Unbelievers marry and God honors it

But God had something else in mind before they made that commitment...salvation

Anything other than one man marrying one woman cannot be blessed of God and is not the design of God

:11-16

Reminds me of when the angel appears to Mary and lets her know about Jesus.
God gives such great promises and blessings to those who aren't even in his house.

If we just honor God's laws, he'll bless us, even if we don't really believe in him.

He's that good. He's that willing to pursue.

But both Sarai and Hagar needed to get along...for the sake of their family

After divorce...don't have to be friends, but need to be civil for the sake of the family

Who is this Ishmael, and what will he be like?

A wild man, literally a wild donkey

At odds with everyone and everyone is at odds with him

Out of the three so-called Abrahamic faiths...Judaism, christianity and Islam...which does this sound like?

Which religion is then not the real one?

Won't make a peace agreement. Is always fighting with everyone and everyone with them. Presence of his brethren all the infighting, and the Ishmaelites attacking the Israelites...half-brothers.

Now Hagar comes to faith...she calls on the name of God.

I don't know anyone who has truly called on the name of God...Jesus, and not been changed
I don't know anyone who has not truly be changed who has not called on the name of Jesus

El roiy - the Living One seeing me. How beautiful is that. Her God was the living God who sees her.

Beer-lahai-roi = "well of the Living One seeing me"

More than the well of life, or a fountain of youth...the well of the Living God...she drank of it. The water that would lead her to never thirst again.

Abram is 86...his 76 year-old end-of-life, really mid-life crisis...ten years passed...and still ticking.

Plenty of time for God to show up with the spiritual answer to the spiritual promise - not just physical descendents...but spiritual ones as well

The ishmaelites ARE physical descendents of Abram, but they are not his spiritual descendents

The Israelites are his physical descendents and precursors of his final spiritual descendents...

Gal 3:28-29 NKJV - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you [are] Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

You already are an heir of promise. You don't need to claim it. You get to live it.