

Finding A Workaround

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Baptism Class - rt after service; or, 11am Sun. (Mercy Room)
- B. Prayer: Lord, we want to learn tonight from our friend *Abram, Sarai, Hagar*, and most importantly **You**. *Reveal Your Character...reveal...*

II. Slide3 Intro: Finding A Workaround

- A. What's your first thoughts when you hear the words, *God is watching you?* (poss or neg?)
1. Usually used to *instill fear into children*. [eg. the all-seeing-eye. Big brother]
 2. How about if we start communicating it to mean, *God loves you so much that He cannot take His eyes off of you. :)*
- B. When we run into a problem...we often find a *workaround*.
1. Which I believe was the catalyst for making **our nation** prominent, **but** terrible when we put it in the context of **our God**.
 2. Here, Abram & Sarai attempt a **workaround** when it comes to **her barrenness**.
 3. God's reassurance in ch.15 confirmed for Abram that **Yahweh's promise is intended for his biological offspring**, **but** God did not specify that Sarai would be the mother.
- C. Slide4-7 4 Maps: (1) Terah settles in Haran (2) Abram emigrates to Canaan (3) Abram's Land Grant (4) Where we are in this chapter.
- D. Slide8 **Faith** and **patience** always go together.
1. *Whoever believes will not act hastily*. Is. 28:16
 2. We must trust God not only for His **plan** **but** also for His **timing**.
 3. Before God could send them *the promised son*, God had to **wait** until Abram and Sarai were *as good as dead*. Rom.4:19
 4. Sarai trusted a woman from Egypt **rather than** the God of heaven.
 5. Don't play Sarai's blame game (blamed God for her barrenness. Blamed Abram for the Hagar problems she had created). Ps.27:14 *Wait for the Lord;*

be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord.

III. Slide9a **SARAI'S SURROGATE (1-6)** (next) **HAGAR'S SON**

- A. (1,2) **Abram listened to the voice of Sarai** - guys, this isn't a verse to show your wife when you don't want to listen to her. It's a verse that reminds the husbands **don't capitulate** to domestic pressure, when you've **heard clearly** from the Lord.
1. Don't be just **guided by reason**, or that 10 yrs have gone by & you feel the pressure to *help God out*.
 2. The NT likens Hagar's son, **born after the flesh**, a **self-effort in religion**.
 - a) Gal.4:22,23 says, *For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. 23 But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise.*
 3. This may have been **Sarai's Plan B**, but God always sticks to His **Plan A**.
 - a) We can add **Plan B's** to any equation in our life...and we do. But they usually *don't end well*, or there are at least have *consequences*. **God's ways will not be thwarted**.
 - b) What were your Plan B's you still look back on thinking you messed things up permanently? (we had sex before marriage. a child out of wedlock. I wasn't honest **Slide9b** on my job app) **God has eyes for you**. **You are never God's Plan B**. *Kelly*
 4. **Illus:** Maybe God's *way* can be somewhat explained this way: **there's little boy who** was invited to a birthday party of a friend. But because of a heavy blizzard, he was told he couldn't go. He responded angrily, *Other parents love their children enough to let them to go*. His father, though *stung by his bitter words*, turned to him and said, **he may go**. So overjoyed he put on his coat and ran into the raging storm. The snows made vision impossible. The drifts almost covered him. Howling winds tossed him down repeatedly. Only by a sheer miracle did he arrive at the house a few blocks away. He started to ring the bell when he caught something out of the side of his eye. A shadow of a retreating figure. It was *his father*. He was following him every step of the storm. **God our Father, always watching over us. Always sympathetically concerned. Even when we **press impatiently** down the path of our self-will, He abides still!**
- B. (3) **As a wife** - Sarai gives Hagar to Abram as an *ishah*. Not as a concubine (*pilegesh*).

1. This may indicate that Hagar has a **higher status** in the household than that of a concubine. A higher status may have been necessary for the child to have **full rights** as Abram's heir.
- C. **Slide9c** (6) Sometimes we try to *get rid of our mistakes*. So sometimes God *sends them right back to us*. *Abram & Sarai had to live with their mistake* (not the child) *at least another 17yrs*
- D. Each of the 3 characters displays the untruth that is part of **sin**: Derick Kidner
 1. **Slide9d** **False pride** (vs.4, *Hagar despises Sarai*). **False blame** (vs.5, *Sarai blames Abram*). **False neutrality** (vs.6, *Abram plays neutral w/wife, u decide babe*).
 2. **But** Sarai's mask soon slipped (6b) to show the **hatred** behind the talk of **justice**.

IV. **Slide10 HAGGAR'S SON (7-16)**

- A. **Slide11 THE LORD FOUND HER** (7-9) *The Lord Favored Her... The Lord Be-Friended her*
- B. (1) **Hagar** = to flee, or flight. (runner? run-away?)
- C. **The Lord...found...her** - ponder that. What comforting words. *She didn't find the Lord, He found her.*
- D. **Slide12** Hagar is heading south to go back home, Egypt. She's traveled for some days to reach Kadesh area.
 1. **But** her lot was cast with Abram now, & God's goodness held her to it (9,15).
- E. Sarai greatly wronged Hagar; **but** God stepped in & cared for her & her son.
 1. **Would God ever let you be greatly wronged...so He could step in to your life?**
- F. (8) **What great questions:** *where have you come from? Where are you going?*
 1. I'm **Hagar**. I'm **fleeing**.
- G. (9) *Return and submit*. So So hard.
- H. **Slide13a THE LORD FAVORED HER** (10-12)
 - I. (10) **Check out how God encourages her** - He draws her mind to **things ahead**, **not on past injuries**.
 - J. (11) **Ishmael** - God hears or God shall hear. *Hey, God-hears, come here*. Always **reminded** of this day, this promise, this meeting with God Himself.

- K. (11b) We don't have Hagar's plea, but she was heard.
- L. (12) A wild donkey of a man - Ishmael and his descendants will be wayward and headstrong.
1. He will be prone to conflict. [solve the Middle East conflict? doubt it. Help w/it, sure]
 2. Ishmael would multiply, and be at nobody's beck and call.
 3. To some degree this son of Abram would be a shadow, almost a parody/imitation, of his father, as his 12 princes became notable in their times (17:20).
 - a) Kathy Collard Miller wrote, *"The impatience of Abram and Sarai brings generations of grief to their descendants. Hagar's son, Ishmael, becomes the ancestor of the Arabs, who have always been hostile to the Jews. Ishmael is the ancestor of Mohammed, the founder of Islam. Sin doesn't affect just the person who sins, but it often has far-reaching effects. Even when we are forgiven, we may still suffer the consequences of our incorrect choices. In the case of Abram and Sarai, a lack of trust in God resulted in sin. This sin created conflict between Sarai and her servant Hagar, tension between Sarai and Abram, and future generations of strife between Jews and Arabs."*¹
 - b) But not in the history of salvation. Ishmael's restless existence, brought no pilgrimage but an end in itself. Ishmael's nonconformism was a habit of mind, not a light to the nations. Derek Kidner
- M.(12b) Kinsmen - cousins of Israel, from whom the Arabs of today claim descent.
- N. Slide13b THE LORD BE-FRIENDED HER (13-16)
- O. (13) Here we find out *The angel of the Lord* is *The Lord Himself*.
- P. You are a God of seeing, *El-Roi* - This can be translated as *God of seeing*, referring to God's ability to see everything. Or, *God of my seeing*, a testimonial by Hagar that she has witnessed a divine being. Or, *God who sees me*, a more personal version of the first translation. [God sees all. I saw God. God law me]
1. Hagar's remaining words seem to express all of these, read all vs.13.
 2. Kelly said, *Hagar is the first person to whom the Angel of the Lord appeared; the first woman in the Bible to whom God directly made a promise, and she*

¹ Ps: Ishmael's 2nd son Kedar's line was to whom the Islamic prophet, Muhammad was born.

is the only person in the OT to give God a new name. Jacob and Abraham name the place they saw God, but Hagar decided to give God Himself a name. How bold you are, Hagar! Way to go! Kelly's Notes on Hagar, Life Lessons from the Ladies

a) No other character in the OT, male or female, confers a name onto deity.

3. He is the God who sees - sees what? your affliction, your struggles, your mistreatment, your injustices against you, your faithfulness, your needs.

Q. (14) Beer-lahai-roi - Beer/well (Beersheba, 7 wells), *well of the living one who sees me.*

R. Elizabeth George wrote, "*What did God do for this desperate woman?*

Slide13c God gave her Instructions. For her safety and well-being, God told Hagar to return to her mistress. In Abram's tent she would find food and water, shelter, and help during her pregnancy.

God gave her Encouragement. She would bear a son. All was not lost. However hopeless life looked, however hard life was right now, Hagar would one day have a son; a family.

God gave her a Promise. He would multiply her descendants. Yes, Hagar was a slave, but she would become the mother of many."

S. What's was your first thoughts when you hear the words, *God is watching you?*
What are they now?