

Lesson #4

MMBC

The Wilderness Experience of Hagar

The Desperate Wife

Before we begin our conversation regarding Hagar I contend we need to do consider her “boss” Sarah. Sarah, her mistress, was old and barren. As she factored in her age and her condition she felt what she wanted to happen was too much for her old body.

What did she suggest (Genesis 16:21)?

By doing this, Sarah was taking matters into her own hands. Notice Abram’s response, “And Abram hearkened unto the voice of Sarai.” In order for this to happen, Hagar had to become his wife (3c).

The Message Bible says Sarai was abusive to Hagar. What do you think was the catalyst for her mistreatment of Hagar?

How did Hagar begin to feel about her mistress?

What was Abram’s response?

Twice now Abram has “given in” to the wishes of Sarai.

Where is God in all of this?

Notice verse 7, “And the angel of the Lord found her....” Isn’t this awesome to know that our omniscient God knows where we are and goes searching for us? The Good Shephard goes looking for His sheep.

Where did the angel of the Lord find Hagar (7)?

Notice the angel in the King James Version called her specifically by her name and reminded her of her role.

Like David and Elijah, Hagar is on the run and she admits she was fleeing from the face of her mistress, Sarah.

We learn a valuable lesson from David, Elijah, and Hagar. We cannot run from our circumstances! You have to face it to fix it!

- What does “fleeing” look like in 2017?
- We get upset on our jobs and we are ready to leave!
- We get upset with our spouses and we are ready to “hit the road!”
- We see the evidence of conflict and we are ready to walk away.

When you ARRIVE at your next place or your next relationship. You will see there are problems there too.

What was the angel's instructions to Hagar? How would you have responded having been asked to go back to the woman who was creating a "living hell" for you?

Go back and submit! Go back and submit! Go back and submit! We don't like that word submit.

God allows U-turns in the wilderness! Hallelujah!

Discuss "Because the Lord has heard thy affliction..."

What three promises did God make to Hagar while she was in her wilderness?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

In verse 13, Hagar, encouraged by this experience, gives a new name to God—"El Roi," "the God who sees." She then returns to Abram and Sarai and Ishmael is born.

We know very little about Hagar's faith or even her relationship with Abraham's God. Maybe God was using this situation to lure Hagar in. Would God go through this much trouble to get one soul to Him? Yes!

We can't overlook the two dominant themes that run through this chapter:

- God saw Hagar
- Hagar saw God

What does this say to you as a believer?

Think about this woman who undoubtedly felt thrown away, abandoned, and abused. All of a sudden she feels "seen!"

Aren't you glad God sees and knows what we are going through?

Sometimes in our situations we think God is not listening nor does He care about us. He cares, He sees, and He knows.