

E2E: Part 18a

Genesis 16

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1. God's delays are not God's denials, but Satan whispers "if God really loved you things would be different."
2. Abram obeyed the voice of Sarai, not the voice of God. Abram's failure is heeding Sarai's instructions without weighing the implications. (Genesis 16:2)
3. Anytime humans hatch man-made solutions to God-sized issues, we continually find failure. (Genesis 16:4-5)
4. For Abram, allowing Sarai's voice to take precedence over God's voice is relinquishing his spiritual leadership. He allowed Sarai's emotion and hurt to overrule God's activity.
5. God the Son steps through time and appears to Hagar, a broken woman in the wilderness, to bring clarification to the entire issue. He knows her by name, He is completely aware of her situation, and she is precious to him. (Genesis 16:8)
6. Hagar is asked to completely surrender to her mistress. With her return and submission to Sarai, she is offered the Lord's blessing. (Genesis 16:10)
7. God is always concerned with the nature and character of His creation. (Genesis 16:11-12)
8. Where God cannot rule because of our resistance, He overrules and always accomplishes His purposes.
9. Three Characters in the story:
 - Sarai did not act in faith – her primary concern seems to be social stigma of her barrenness. She led Abram to believe God's plan wasn't working.
 - Abram fails by listening to bad counsel – many of us fail because we don't listen well.
 - Satan wants us to think our 'disobedience detours' become the permanent road for the rest of our lives, but it's just one of his many lies.

HEBREW WORDS

Hagar (haw-gawr'); to be a fugitive –

Shama` (shaw-mah'); to hear intelligently (with obedience):- attentively, consent with action

QUOTES

"Hammurabi, the prince, called of Bel am I, making riches and increase beyond compare, sublime patron of E-kur; who conquered the four quarters of the world, made great the name of Babylon..." -- **6th King of Babylon - 1792 B.C**

"If a man take a wife and she give this man a maid-servant as wife and she bear him children, and then this maid assume equality with the wife: because she has borne him children her master shall not sell her for money, but he may keep her as a slave, reckoning her among the maid-servants."

–**Code of Hammurabi**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Knowing we've been created to be the image bearers or glory-reflectors of God - in what aspect of your life might you be more concerned with your own glory than God's (like Sarai)? What could you do to place your focus on God's glory?
2. How might you be doubting God's loving commitment (hesed) to you at this time in your life? What specifically would it look like for you to "wait on God?"
3. Where specifically would you like God to "enter the scene" (like Hagar) in your life now? Please share this with someone you trust and ask them to pray with you for God to be glorified through it.