



Desiring God
The God Who Sees

Genesis 16:1-16

1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.

2 So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.

3 Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan.

4 So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes.

5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "My wrong be upon you! I gave my maid into your embrace; and when she saw that she had conceived, I became despised in her eyes. The Lord judge between you and me."

6 So Abram said to Sarai, "Indeed your maid is in your hand; do to her as you please." And when Sarai dealt harshly with her, she fled from her presence.

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

8 And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai."

9 The Angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand."

10 Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude."

11 And the Angel of the Lord said to her: "Behold, you are with child, and you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the Lord has heard your affliction.

12 He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

13 Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?"

14 Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; observe, it is between Kadesh and Bered.

15 So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.

16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

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What does God want us to learn from this Story?

- God saw Hagar and cared about her

Hagar was an Egyptian handmaiden to Sarah. A handmaiden was a slave. One ancient historical resource says she was the daughter of a king that was conquered by their enemies and was sold into slavery. Rabbinical history says that she was the daughter to Pharaoh and was given to Sarah after he discovered that Sarah was Abraham's wife.(Genesis 12).

Being a slave would be very difficult for anyone. Being the child of nobility would have only increased her humiliation and pain. It is one thing to become a slave when you are born into poverty where there is little or no hope for your future. It is another thing to become a slave when you are born into royalty and wealth and you have a great hope in the unlimited possibilities for your future.

What we know for certain is that she was a slave. There was nothing to indicate that she would not always be a slave. A slave was the lowest social caste in any ancient society. Hagar's value was determined by what people would pay for her. She was a piece of property with no rights and no free will. She was disposable. Her life was not sacred. She was the least and the lowest. But God saw her and cared about her. God called her by her name. God identified her by the thing that she most hated about herself. She was a slave. A slave felt invisible to people. She may have been invisible to people, but she was not invisible to God. God saw her and cared about her.

- [God saw Hagar and cared about her even though she had sinned.](#)

When Hagar became pregnant Hagar looked down upon Sarah. Here was a slave looking down on her master. Hagar's life was sustained because of Sarah. Everything she had, she had because of Sarah. Her life was literally in Sarah's hands. Sarah was the only reason that Hagar had the honor of being the mother of Abraham's first child. It is amazing how quickly we can be lifted up in pride.

[You know you are lifted up in pride when you look down upon others!](#)

Now because of her sin, she was lost in her sin. She was in the middle of a desert pregnant with no where to go. Her life had become so miserable that she would rather die than live with Sarah. Hagar's name means to flee.

But God saw her and cared about her even though she had sinned.

- [God saw Hagar and had a plan for her life](#)

God's plan for her was an incredible promise. She would become the mother of many descendants. Her son would be the father of a great nation. She would become the grandmother of 12 princes.

Hagar lived in time when people's greatest treasure was their posterity. They believed that their life really mattered if they could have a multitude of descendants. As a woman, she could not receive a greater honor.

Hagar had a choice to make. She could continue with her plan which had no guarantees. Or she could trust God and submit to His plan.

Hagar chose to embrace God's plan and submit to God.

Her response to God would indicate that she was astonished that God saw her and cared about her. The ancients believed that no one could see God and live to tell about it. She honored God with a name that every Jew would know and always link to her.

13 Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, *You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees*; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?"

This was her way of worshipping God. She professed His name. She worshipped Him because she realized...

- God cared about her.
- God cared about her even though she had sinned.
- God cared about her and had a plan for her life.

In the same way that God saw Hagar and cared about her, God sees you and cares about you.

- *God sees you and cares for you.*
He knows your name. He knows the circumstances of your life. He knows how you feel.
- *God sees you and cares about you even though you have sinned.*
He sees your sin. He sees the consequences of your sin. He sees you are lost in your sin.
- *God sees you and has a plan for your life.*
He sent His Son Jesus as His messenger to accomplish His plan. The angel that met Hagar did not make any sacrifice to save Hagar.

God sent Jesus for you and Jesus sacrificed everything to save you because God has an incredible plan for your life.

His plan is to save you from His wrath so that you can live with Him for eternity.

Romans 5:8-9

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

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Ephesians 2:4-7

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

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If you are alive on earth and cognitive, His plan is for you raise up more spiritual descendants of Jesus.

Matthew 4:19

19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

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Hagar only had one son. But from that one son came many descendants. If you are alive on earth and cognitive, God's plan is for you to increase the spiritual descendants of Jesus one person at a time. The apostles considered these descendants to be their descendants because they share in His inheritance.

3 John 4

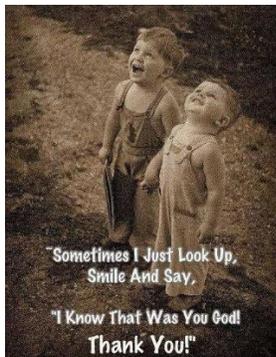
4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

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What are you going to do?

You need to do what Hagar did. You need to trust God and submit to His plan. You need to profess His name. His name is Jesus. You need to worship God as the God who sees me!

If you trust God and submit to His plan, your life will turn into a life of worship.



A life of worship is when you go through one difficult experience after another and you have faith that God's sees you and you see God working in your life?

Many people believe that God is all knowing and that He is present everywhere. These are two of God's divine attributes.

But a life of worship is when you are going through a difficult time and you realize that God sees you and you see God working in your life.

(My experience with God and Scott Norris.)

Recently, I was very discouraged about a situation with one of my children. There is nothing that can send me to depths of despair like one of my children making bad choices and causing others to suffer. As a parent, you can feel like a total failure because of all the mistakes that you have made in parenting. I always wear my children's failures as my own failures to some degree.

On Wednesday, November 21, I felt prompted to stop by Edmond North High School to see a friend of mine named Scott Norris. He is the new HS basketball coach. I knew the school was closed for the holidays, but I thought that his team might be practicing that morning. I arrived at 9:45 am and sure enough, practice began at 10am. We talked for a few minutes before practice began. He told me they had a scrimmage on Saturday morning at 10am against Bethany HS. Bethany HS is coached by another friend of mine.

I stopped by the scrimmage that Saturday and I happened to set down right across the aisle from Scott's wife. I did not know who she was until Scott looked up at her and pointed at her and then me and I made the connection. We talked for the first two quarters of the scrimmage. As I started to leave, I ran into another friend of mine and his wife whose son is a sophomore on the Edmond North team.

On Sunday, I received a text from Scott and he asked me to come to a prayer meeting on Monday evening with the parents of the players on his team to pray for their sons. I have group at my house on Monday evenings, but I felt like the Lord was up to something, so I told him I would come. I had no idea why I was going other than the Lord was prompting me to go.

The home we were in was packed with the parents that had come to pray for their sons. Scott spoke to us first and told us that he had never had a prayer meeting for parents before. He has coached for over 25 years. He said the thought popped into his head weeks ago. He said the thought kept popping into his head. He said the final prompting was the Wednesday I walked into the gym to see Him.

He explained to the parents that in 1990 he was a senior playing basketball at OBU. OBU got a new basketball coach that year named Bob Hoffman. He explained how Bob Hoffman invited me to help with his summer basketball camps. He went on to explain how these camps were different. He said that he saw that the most important thing to Bob and I was not basketball, but it was their faith and encouraging the boys to become the right kind of men. He said when I walked into his gym, he knew that what had been popping into his head about the prayer meeting was God leading Him to do it for the same reason. My presence that day was another reminder to him that what was more important than basketball was the boy's faith and becoming the right kind of men. So, he decided that God wanted him to call for the prayer meeting with the parents.

I was deeply moved to hear how God had used me in 1990 in Scott's life. I was deeply moved to see how we used what Bob Hoffman and I had started in 1990 to make a difference in 2018 at Edmond North. God wanted me to see that. Scott asked me to come and help lead the meeting, but after the meeting was over, I knew I was there because the

Lord sees me, and it was His way of encouraging me during a difficult time. My circumstances had not changed but I was encouraged through this experience because I knew God saw me and I could see God working in my life.

I am living a life of worship.

Will you trust God sees you and submit to His plan?

- Receive Jesus
- Raise up spiritual descendants one person at a time

Will you trust God sees you and live a life of worship to God?