

***An Expository
Study of the Book
of Genesis***



Chapter 16

October 5, 2011

Summary

If a man fails to assume the spiritual leadership of his home, he can expect that someone else will do it.

In Genesis 14...

...Abraham made his journey back to God and he survived the fact that his sin followed him home.

Genesis 14...

...was written to help us in the process of returning to God by preventing sin from taking a foothold

Genesis 15...

...was written to teach us how to trust God's word in key areas of our lives

Genesis 16...

...demonstrates the importance of a man assuming the spiritual leadership of his home, and the consequences of failing to do so.

Genesis 16:1-6

Abraham, a Man Missing in Action



Genesis 16:1

Sarai, A Woman in Pain

Genesis 16:1

“Now Sarai, Abram’s wife has borne him no children, and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar.”

Sarai was...

- **...shackled with the cultural stigma of having not given her husband a son. Her fear was that God's promise would not be fulfilled and she was responsible.**



She was...

*...emotionally
wounded and
vulnerable. She
needed the
emotional support
of her husband.*

Genesis 16:2

**So Sarai said to Abram,
“Now behold, the LORD has
prevented me from bearing
children. Please go in to my
maid; perhaps I will obtain
children through her.” And
Abram listened to the voice
of Sarai.**

In the absence of...

...her husbands support, Sarai took matters into her own hands. Even nature abhors a vacuum.

Culturally, Sarai's...

...suggestion was allowed. It is wise, however, before we do something because we can, we need to consider if we should.

All the Abram...

...had to say was no, and that would have been the end of the matter. He decided to go along in order to get along.

Genesis 16:3-4

After Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Abram's wife *Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife.* He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight.



In her emotional...

***...state, Sarai
decided to play
God and solve the
problem of her
barrenness.***



Abram allowed his...

...wife to wear the pants when he should have taken the leadership initiative and nipped the problem in the bud.

He dutifully...

***...obeyed his wife,
but instead of
solving the original
problem, he created
a more serious one.***

Sarai failed to...

...anticipate human nature. She had given her husband to another woman who gloated over the fact that she was going to have his child.

Genesis 16:5

And Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done me be upon you. I gave my maid into your arms, but when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her sight. May the LORD judge between you and me.”

Sarai rightly...

***...chides her
husband for not
stopping her for
doing something
foolish but the
damage was already
done.***

Genesis 16:6

But Abram said to Sarai, “Behold, your maid is in your power; do to her what is good in your sight.” So Sarai treated her harshly, and she fled from her presence.

Abram continued...

...to abdicate his leadership role by telling his original wife that she could do whatever she wanted to do with his new wife, who happened to be pregnant with his son.

Sarai chased the...

- **...other woman away even though Hagar had done nothing but what she had been asked to do.**



Genesis 16:7-16

God's Divine Intervention

Genesis 16:7-11a

Now the angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from and where are you going?" And she said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai." Then the angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself to her authority." Moreover, the angel of the LORD said to her, "I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count." The angel of the LORD said to her further,

Genesis 16:11b-12

**“Behold, you are with child,
And you will bear a son;
And you shall call his name Ishmael,
Because the LORD has given heed to
your affliction.**

**“He will be a wild donkey of a man,
His hand *will be* against everyone,
And everyone’s hand *will be* against
him;
And he will live to the east of all his
brothers.”**

Even when we...

- ...behave foolishly and fail to trust Him, God is in the middle of every one of our circumstances. He did not abandon Hagar in her most desperate hour.

The angel...

- ...sent Hagar back to her mistress because her son was indeed Abram's son and God had plans for him.

Genesis 16:13-16

Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, “You are a God who sees”; for she said, “Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?” Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered.

Lesson 1

- **There is a time for us to move and there is a time for us to wait. We must trust God in order to be able to discern which is which.**

Lesson 2

- We should be reluctant to move when our only motivations are to relieve anxiety or make us feel better.

Lesson 3

- **We should be careful when we begin to think that the end justifies the means.**

Lesson 2

- We should be reluctant to move when our only motivations are to relieve anxiety or make us feel better.