

## Sermon Title: The God of Rejects Too!

### Sermon Text: Genesis 16, 21:8-21

Genesis 16 begins with the same theme once again... God promised Abram & Sarai a son, but now after 10yrs of living in this land of promise, still no child!

Does anyone enjoy the practice of patience? We've all stopped praying for patience right... because we all know how God answers that prayer!

Abram was in his mid-80's, Sarai in her mid-70's and still no children/son!  
Isn't it true that we can do some pretty stupid things when we're impatient?

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Sarai, in her impatience, gave her servant girl to her husband (as a 2<sup>nd</sup> wife) to sleep with, in hopes that she could bare a surrogate son for her!

Abram, in his impatience, said "OK!" ("Stupid is, is stupid does" – Forrest Gump)

What happened to their faith??? What happened to the "assurance" & the "conviction" that God would be "faithful" to them in keeping His promise?

Faith is a journey! It is a gift from God, but a gift that we can/often misuse!

One could argue that it was "faith" that led Abram & Sarai to make this decision... they simply believed this was the means by which God was going to provide. But God does not ask us to sin in order to bring about His plan!

For Abram to take a 2<sup>nd</sup> wife & to sleep with Hagar was sinful! May we never justify our sin because we are trying to convince ourselves that it is for the "greater good", or that it has been forced upon us to bring about God's plan!

If there was a text in Scripture that truly mirrored the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden it is right here in verses 2-3.

**Vs. 2-3 - "And Sarai said to Abram, 'Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go into my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.' And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai."**

Takeaway # 1 – When sin is involved, the "end" never justifies the "means"!

Takeaway # 2 – Sin always makes a mess of things! (marriages, families, relationships)

Takeaway # 3 – Men need to lead their wives'/families spiritually! Abram's failure

Let's spend the rest of our time looking at the story of Hagar (& Ishmael).

Hagar did not deserve the treatment she received from Sarai & Abram!

- This plan was forced upon Hagar by Sarai! She would've had no choice!
- Abram didn't protect her (a servant in his household), even from himself
- But didn't she dishonor Sarai & show her contempt (**vs. 4 & 5**)? The original Hebrew is translated "her mistress was dishonorable in her eyes"
- Abram had a chance to come to Hagar's defense and he didn't (**vs. 6**)!
- Sarai dealt harshly with Hagar, just because she was the pregnant one!

Hagar fled... but while she was in the wilderness - rejected, despised, & alone, God showed up with compassion and spoke promises to her!

She was seen by God! He heard her cries! He met her in that place of need! We hear about "the God of Abraham... Noah... of all creation... But here we see God being the God of Hagar... a despised... Egyptian... servant... girl...

In that wilderness place, Hagar was a reject... by Sarai... by Abram... but she encountered God there, & she called His name, "You are the God of seeing" "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." And she called that place "Beer-lahairoi" which means "the well of the Living One who sees me."

She was truly seen, in the midst of her darkest hour, & God listened to her cries and met her in her affliction (the name Ishmael means "God hears")!

God would show up again for Hagar, in the midst of rejection, in **Ch. 21:8-21.**

**Vs. 10 - "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac."** (No name, no servant)

Hagar & Ishmael were cast out, rejected a final time by Sarah & Abraham! Again, for no reason of their own doing, except for Ishmael being a typical teenager (**vs. 9**). But how does "laughing" warrant such a response?

But here again, God shows up in a mighty way for Hagar & Ishmael – despite being rejected by God's own chosen people! Remember Jesus' own rejection!

How comforting to know that God is a God for the rejects of this world too! If you've felt such rejection, find in God the One who sees/listens/receives!

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