

“Contented Captive” (2)

“And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward.” (2 Kings 19:30)

Key Point: Fruitfulness is a Product of Faithfulness

Hagar’s Humiliation

Genesis 16:1-3 – (1) “Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. (2) And Sarai said to Abram, ‘Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.’ And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. (3) So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife.”

Genesis 16:4-6 – (4) “And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. (5) And Sarai said to Abram, ‘May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!’ (6) But Abram said to Sarai, ‘Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please.’ Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.”

Lessons Learned:

(1) Take the Narrow Path of Submission

Genesis 16:7-9 – (7) “The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. (8) And he said, ‘Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?’ She said, ‘I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai.’ (9) The angel of the LORD said to her, ‘Return to your mistress and submit to her.’”

(2) God will Reward for Affliction Endured

Genesis 16:10-11 – (10) “The angel of the LORD also said to her, ‘I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude.’ (11) And the angel of the LORD said to her, ‘Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has listened to your affliction.’”

(3) God's Eye is ever upon Me

Genesis 16:13-14 – (13) “So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, ‘*You are a God of seeing,*’ for she said, ‘*Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.*’ (14) Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.”

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

Am I currently enduring affliction because of other people's folly?

Unless God tells me otherwise, what is God's preference for me in my current condition(s): faithfulness or flight, remain or run, abide or abandon? (Luke 22:28-29; 1Tim. 1:3; Acts 27:31; 1 Cor. 7:20; Ps 92:13)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)