

The God Who Sees Me – Lessons from Sarai & Hagar

September 3, 2017, Sermon by: Pastor Bryan Tomes

Back to School Blessing

We're going to start today with a 'Back to School Blessing on our Children'. We're going to pray the blessings of God, the favor of God, the increase of God, the anointing of God, the protection from God, over our children and our young people.

Let's understand, they aren't the church of tomorrow, they are the church of today. Every church needs a legacy and the young people are the ones who come up. If you don't plant new seeds, you're not going to have a harvest. God has blessed us with children. Children are a gift from God.

Children: "I'm not the church of tomorrow. I'm the church of today. And I am a Christian. And I've got news devil, I'm coming, and you're going, in Jesus' name."

Pastor: "Father, I pray a blessing over these kids, I pray you bless them, you bring increase, favor and territory. Lord, give them good friends and let them run from the bad ones. I pray that God, you would supernaturally protect them, I pray that favor come upon them, I pray You would help them remember what they need to remember, let them know they are going to school for an education, not to be popular. But Lord I even know that even though they might seem unpopular, they're popular in Heaven. Let them feel the presence and power of God in Jesus' name. Amen"

"Listen, you can make a difference at your school. You may be going to a public school but we're going to make it a Christian school because we're going to bring people out of the darkness into the light"

"Say, 'I am going to make a difference in my school and in my house for Jesus Christ. Amen. I am the light and darkness has no place in me. I bring light to the darkness and the darkness scatters. For I am a child of light. In Jesus' name – amen."

Intro:

Today I'm going to preach a message from the text that doesn't get preached often... it's from the story of Hagar and Sarai in Genesis 16. Hagar is the mother of Ishmael.

- This is before God changed Sarai's name to Sarah. God will change your name and destiny when you come to Christ. Bryan became Pastor Bryan when he came to Christ and I entered into covenant promises with God on blessings on my life. I've lived a life without the blessings and with the blessings – and I'm going to keep them.
- The title of today's message is "The God Who Sees Me". Sometimes we're going thru issues and troubles as if God isn't paying attention. Well, God sees us, hears us and is watching us.

Genesis 16:1-13 - *Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to bear children for him. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar. 2 So Sarai said to Abram, "The Lord has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her." And Abram agreed with Sarai's proposal.*

- **Lesson #1 - The Indecent Proposal**

- **Problem: Out of Covenant Agreements Lead To Out of Covenant Problems**

Think of things you've done outside of the Word of God and the Will of God

- **God had already dealt with Abraham about this situation (chapter 15)**

Abram was challenging the Lord about his wealth and legacy saying God promised many descendants but now in his old age he told God he had no son to carry on his name and therefore Abram was going to leave all he had to his servants.

- **God said "NO" and that Abram would bear a "Son" and have many descendants**

When God says "No" it hurts. But it's not because he doesn't love us but it's because He DOES love us that he says "No".

Sometimes the things we want to do go against the things God wants to do for us in our lives.

You can 'pay' for the things you want, or you can wait for God to 'deliver it' to you. Wait for God to give you the desires of your heart – don't go in debt with payments. Wait on God – He has your back. Don't run out before God. Don't move away from God in your disobedience and then blame God.

Well Abram went against God and everything God promised in Gen 15. He saw Sarai was getting older, and even though God said "No", Sarai took matters into her own hands. Out of covenant agreements bring out of covenant problems.

Sarai brings Hagar to Abram and Abram agreed with Sarai's proposal.

- **Genesis 16 cont'd**

- **3** So Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian servant and gave her to Abram as a wife. (This happened ten years after Abram had settled in the land of Canaan.)

4 So Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt.

Ten years after the promise God gave to Abram, He is reminding him what He spoke to Abram about.

- **Lesson #2 - Just because you receive an impartation or ministry or authority from someone or from the Lord doesn't mean you get to usurp the authority God has placed OVER you.**

Too often people get anointed and blessed by God and then think they can run out and do whatever they want to do – it doesn't work that way. There is an order to the Kingdom of God, and if you are out of order, it is called chaos.

Submit to the will of God, your problems don't give you the right to treat anybody with contempt.

- **Mistress Definition** = a Woman of Authority/Control

Hagar had a mistress, a woman (Sarai) who had authority over her. She had no problem with Sarai until she got pregnant. Haggai was now carrying the seed of Abram, the seed of blessings, she was carrying covenant in her. And she got puffed up.

This happens in ministry – someone gets put into position and they turn into someone completely different. Pride takes over. But when you take matters into your own hands, you're taking matters out of the hands of God.

Do not sacrifice your promise for a proposal. Be secure in the hand of God.

Genesis 16 con't

5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she's pregnant she treats me with contempt. The Lord will show who's wrong – you or me!"

- **Lesson #3- If You Make a Mistake, Take Ownership Don't Blame Someone Else and Ask The Lord to Fix It.**

Is everything that goes wrong in the house the husband's fault? Didn't Sarai bring Hagar to Abram and propose he take her as his wife so they can have a baby?

Sarai is now upset that Hagar treats her with contempt.

Contempt Definition = Think less of/Disregard/Disdain

When people get so puffed up about their anointing they get so filled up with pride and stop listening to the voice of reason, the voice God has placed in their life to help them. You cannot exalt yourself in the Kingdom of God.

John the Baptist said of Jesus, He must become greater and I must become less. He had a great ministry, but when Jesus walked onto the scene, he recognized the authority of God and submitted himself to the authority of God. Yet, because of his humility, and the authority of Father, John baptized Jesus.

You need to understand how the anointing works and how the anointing works in the Kingdom of God. We operate out of a spirit of humility and not out of a spirit of pride.

There is no room in the church of God for pride. You cannot get ahead by being prideful, arrogant, deceitful, thinking less of other people and having contempt for others that God has called you to submit or serve.

Pastors are a covering for you and your ministry. Don't do things outside of your covering and protection where you are safe in the hands of God.

So if you make a mistake, take ownership, don't blame someone else. And definitely don't ask God to fix it if you're not willing to admit it.

Admit it. Quit it. Forget it.

Gen 16: 6 Abram replied, "Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit." Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away.

- **Lesson #4- When you do take ownership of your mistakes don't try and have someone else fix your problems.**

Sarai created the problem, but Abram was the one who accepted the indecent proposal instead of leading his wife in the things of God. And Hagar was puffed up over the seed she was carrying.

But it was Sarai who had the problem dealing with the contempt. Whatever you are threatened by, you will try to destroy.

For those of you who have haters out there, it's because they want to destroy what God is doing in you. They can't stand the blessings you walk in. All the critics come out (delete your critics from FB). Hang with those who help feed your faith, get you up, push you towards your destiny.

Unbelief will hold you back – let go of the ties of the things and people that hold you back and get around the right people who send you forth into your calling.

Jesus came and destroyed all the works of the devil and He lives inside of us.

- **Lesson #5 - If you're not careful You will try and destroy whatever you are threatened by**

Genesis 16 cont.

7 The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. **8** The angel said to her, "Hagar, Sarai's servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?" I'm running away from my mistress, Sarai," she replied. **9** The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority." **10** Then he added, "I will give you more descendants than you can count."

- **Lesson #6 - Don't run from your troubles, stand firm and let the Lord fight your battles**

When you can't run anymore, stand, and let the Lord fight your battle.

The Lord didn't just call her "Hagar", but "Hagar, Sarai's servant". Hagar may have been crying about all that was done to her, forgetting all the problems she caused in that family. God asked her, "Where did you come from?". We have to remember what we've been saved from. If we forget who we were, we'll never know where we're going.

Hagar was running from her problems, she was running from her authority. She didn't trust God enough to deal with it.

Don't let your problems overtake you – speak to your problems that they will go in Jesus' name. If God has called you, no devil can stop you.

Do you trust God enough to deal with this? Keep your problems in front of you and address them like a man of God – speak to your problems and your problems will go in Jesus' name!

Verse 10 God always gives a promise with the prescription to your problems.

- **Lesson #7 - Submission Isn't the end of the road it is the vehicle to your divine destiny**

God has an order. The steps of a righteous man have been ordered by the Lord.
As you take those steps of righteousness, you have advancement in the kingdom of God.

Genesis 16:13

- *Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, "You are the God who sees me." She also said, "Have I truly seen the One who sees me?"*

- **Lesson #8 - God Sees Everything We Do and We Say**

- **Closing – Pastor's Testimony**

- I was a drug addict and drug dealer but I knew God had a calling on my life. Even while I was high, I would see an evangelist on TV and say I'm supposed to be doing that.
- Even in your darkest moments before you serve God, God has called us into a destiny and purpose and the devil will do everything he can do to destroy you.
- I submitted to the will of God and entered Teen Challenge – I knew I needed the help of a good situation to get healthy and prosperous. The soil is just as important as the seed.
- In the beginning I spent a lot of time in the learning center, getting fed the word of God and I was spiritually fed and getting rooted and grounded in the Word. I received so much revelation and was baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- 30 Days In, I was moved to the Work Center – and the devil was convincing me that I could just work outside of the program and be a minister. Want to know how to prepare for the ministry – W-O-R-K.
- I struggled with that - An Un-Surrendered Life Will Always Struggle!
- I was contemplating leaving the program and as I was reading my Bible and I asked God to speak to me about this situation -- I Flipped Open The Bible and My Finger Landed On This:
- **Matthew 28:19,20** - *Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*
- **That was it the Lord has Spoken to GO !!**
I was out - started packing my bags
Called Jessica - You Leave We Are Done! What?
My Parents - Can't Come Here! What?
- **Director of the Program**
What Are Doing? Leaving!
Where Are You Going? I Don't Know!
Why? Because The Lord Told Me to!
- **What He Told Me I'll Never Forget ...**
- I Believe The Lord Has Spoken To You!
- The Question Is When are you supposed to leave?
You Believe God has brought you here? Yes
You Believe We Are Supposed To Help You? Yes
You Believe God Is A God of Timing? Yes
You Believe God Always Confirms His Word? Yes
- Can I Ask You A Question? - Sure!

If the Lord told you go and make disciples, how are you going to make disciples if you have never been disciplined yourself?

- Long Story Shorter - We Prayed and I Stayed !!!
- This is a “heart” decision – do you have the heart to finish the race?
- I called home and my family was relieved and my mama gave me a scripture that the Lord had spoken to her about me:

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) 84' version- *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good and perfect works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

- I had seen that scripture everywhere that week !!
 - Devotionals - My studies - My Work Job !!!
- I Said This In My Spirit: "GOD YOU SEE ME"