

THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM

Running Ahead of God

I am no different than you. Sometimes we find ourselves facing a dilemma. There are so many different kinds to choose from and no matter what kind you face, life can be messy. There is job related decisions, academic choices, both that not only affect you but your families as well. The job pays good but you would have to move your family to Nome, Alaska. You want to finish your degree but you would sacrifice time with your family and your children have been wanting more of you. Romantic situations can cause not just a dilemma but an outright crisis. Who hasn't had financial dilemma's? Abram's dilemma starts back in chapter **Gen 15:4** **And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir."**

Abram and Sarai waited and waited on the Lord until Sarai got tired of waiting and decided to take things in her own hands after all "God helps those that helps themselves" right?

Let's rewind just a bit.

Abram and Sarai went to Egypt and as they got close, Abram told Sarai how beautiful she was and worried he would be put to death so that the Egyptians could do the sand dance and take Sarai to be their wife. So he conceived this idea... I'll tell them your my Sister. They paid him well thinking she was his Sister but in the end

discovered the truth and sent them away "with all they gave them".

Gen 12:16 He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and **female servants**, female donkeys, and camels.

Enter now, into the camp of Abram, a female servant by the name of Hagar. Years later...

Gen 16:1-2

(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.

It was their earlier decision that now caused a dilemma. Without already knowing the history, think a moment like Sarai must have thought. Here is my translation "I'm too old to have children and the Lord said it would be from the seed of Abram, He didn't say it would be from me". In those days a woman could give her handmaid to her husband and if they had a child it would be considered the wife's child and if the husband accepted him as son then he would be the heir.

Sarai probably thought she had figured out their situation, she had solved it. On top of that, Abram listened to his wife's reasoning and accepted it

What is missing in this whole scenario?

In all her speculation and all her thought process to help solve **God's problem** to provide Abram an heir. They both forgot to talk to God about it. They forgot to pray!

Have you ever gotten so involved in trying to resolve your dilemma that you run ahead, think things through and figure it out on you own without praying about it? It's like saying "I've got this God, no need for you to worry about it". We get impatient and run ahead of God and make a mess of things!

God doesn't answer prayers at the last minute, He answers them at the right moment.

Things didn't end well... in fact, they didn't end at all. Things got worse. Read **Genesis 16:4-8** Sarai, was full of jealousy. In those day the community looked down on a woman that could not bare children and so Hagar was elevated above Sarai in their eyes and that didn't bode well with Sarai. Sarai blames Abram, He then put it's all back on her to do as she pleases with "her" servant. Poor Hagar! God's angel then meets with Hagar to communicate God's love to her and her unborn baby. You see, God's love is unconditional and concerning unborn children, His love is ABSOLUTE no matter the circumstances. Think about that!

Next Week:

Read: Genesis 16:9-16
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