

“The Folly of Doing God’s Work Using Man’s Methods”  
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Sermon Text: Genesis 16

“The narrative in Genesis 16 is the first in a series of stories that portray the tension over the delay of the promise. God had told Abram that his own son would be his heir (15:4) which had not happened yet.”

1. Sarai attempts to gain the Promise through surrogate motherhood (vs 1-2)

2. Abram consented to this human effort- and he is responsible before God for the outcome (vs 3-6)

Numbers 30

Result: The proud servant – Hagar (vs 4)

Result: The angry wife (vs 5)

The servant abused (vs 6)

3. The Angel of YHWH announces both gracious promises and an oracle of conflict between the Ishmael and the Promised Seed (vs 7-16)