

# ***THE FAITH OF HAGAR***

Genesis 16:1-14

## **INTRODUCTION**

- It is said that a mother's job is never done
- The most important job in the world is often the least valued
- Often mothers feel like they are slaves
- Today, we are going to look at a mother who really was a slave
- Hagar was a mother who did not have the ideal situation that a mother would want
- She was an outsider, and subsequently an outcast, rejected by the only family she had
- She was far from perfect and it is not hard to find a number of flaws in the choices she made, yet this unlikely lady became a recipient of the grace of God and the blessing of God
- Her name means "flight", "fugitive", "stranger"
- She was of Egyptian descent
- Abraham may have purchased her during his time in Egypt to be a maid to Sarah
- Hagar and Ishmael are used by Paul in Galatians as an allegory to represent those who attempt to be justified by works. (Galatians 4:21-31)

## **I. HER ERRING CONDUCT (1-6)**

A. There was failure on all parts

1. Sarah showed lack of faith in God fulfilling His promise.
    - a. She became fed up with waiting for God's timing, and decided to get things moving herself
    - b. She then took out her frustrations on Hagar, treating her harshly
  2. Abram erred by listening to his wife's bad counsel and relinquishing his responsibility
    - a. Sometimes, Satan tempts us through those we love (Deuteronomy 13:6-8; Job 2:9; Matthew 10:37)
    - b. He did not consult the Lord (cf. Joshua 9:14)
    - c. He ignored his responsibility to deal with the problem (cf. David in 2 Samuel 13:1-39)
    - d. It would be another 13 years before God spoke to him again
- B. Hagar reacted poorly to both blessing and adversity
1. She treated Sarah with contempt instead of respect (Proverbs 30:21-23)
  2. She fled from her problems instead of facing them

## **II. HER ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST (7-12)**

### **A. The angel of the LORD**

1. In Scripture, this often implies the presence of Deity in bodily form
2. This is a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ

3. "Angel" means messenger (cf. John 1:1)

B. She was found of the LORD (7)

1. He seeks the wanderer (Genesis 3:9; Luke 15:4; 19:10)

2. The Lord seeks us before we seek Him (Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:19)

3. The Lord usually finds sinners when they are brought to great extremity (Psalm 119:67,71; Luke 15:14-17; 2 Corinthians 1:8-10)

C. She was known by the LORD (8)

D. She was examined by the LORD (8)

A. These are two of the most important questions a person may ponder:

1. Where have you come from? – consider past sins

2. Where are you going? – consider impending death and judgment

E. She was admonished by the LORD (9)

1. Return (Jeremiah 3:22)

2. When we are out of the way of duty, it behoves us to make haste to return to it

F. She was encouraged by the LORD (10-12)

1. She would be constantly reminded that God heard her (Ishmael – God hears; Psalm 34:15)

1. She would be blessed with many descendants

2. She would one day be free, but not for another 15 years

### **III. HER EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE (13-14)**

#### **A. She acknowledged that God sees her**

1. This should cause us to fear – he sees all we do and think (Proverbs 15:3)
2. This should cause us to wonder – the God of heaven regards *us* (Psalm 8:4)
3. This should cause us to trust in him (Matthew 10:29-31)

#### **B. She acknowledged that she had seen God**

1. This is the confession of a justified person
2. She demonstrated her faith was genuine by her obedience (James 2:17-18)

### **CONCLUSION**

1. The Lord still seeks for the lost ones today, yet most refuse his love and choose to remain lost in their sins
2. Learn from Hagar's errors, as well as her right choices
3. Do you run from problems?
4. Have you met the Lord?
5. Do you have confidence he hears and sees you?
6. Can you testify that you have seen him by faith?