

Lessons from the Life of Hagar



There are days when, like Hagar, we may feel unknown, unseen, and unimportant. But just as Hagar's name is engraved in Scripture – God had a plan for her life and has a plan for yours.

“Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. 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.” Gen. 16:1-2 NKJV

1. You are more than a pawn in another person's story (a chess piece of the smallest size and value).

“He went in to [the bed of] Hagar, and she conceived; and when she realized that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress [regarding Sarai as insignificant because of her infertility]. Then Sarai said to Abram, “May [the responsibility for] the wrong done to me [by the arrogant behavior of Hagar] be upon you. I gave my maid into your arms, and when she realized that she had conceived, I was despised and looked on with disrespect. May the LORD judge [who has done right] between you and me.” But Abram said to Sarai, “Look, your maid is entirely in your hands and subject to your authority; do as you please with her.” So Sarai treated her harshly and humiliated her, and Hagar fled from her.” Gen. 16:4-6 AMP

2. We all have those *Wanna Get Away* moments, but running away is rarely the right choice.

Interestingly, the Hebrew definition of Hagar's name means flight or forsaken. There's no running away from an omnipresent God. *"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?"* Ps. 139:7 NKJV

Hagar thought she was alone and unknown, but the Angel of the Lord met her in the wilderness.

"But the Angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, on the road to [Egypt by way of] Shur. And He said, 'Hagar, Sarai's maid, where did you come from and where are you going?' And she said, 'I am running away from my mistress Sarai.' The Angel of the LORD said to her, 'Go back to your mistress, and submit humbly to her authority.' Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, 'I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count.' The Angel of the LORD continued, 'Behold, you are with child, And you will bear a son; And you shall name him Ishmael (God hears), Because the LORD has heard and paid attention to your persecution (suffering).'" Gen. 16:7-11 AMP

3. We can return to a difficult situation renewed by the presence of the Promise Keeper.

"God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?" Num. 23:19

"Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, 'You are God Who Sees'; for she said, 'Have I not even here [in the wilderness] remained alive after seeing Him [who sees me with understanding and compassion]?'" Gen.16:13 AMP

4. Open our eyes, Lord... We need to see You and see ourselves as You see us.

In Genesis chapter 21, Sarah sends Hagar away again. This time, with her son, Ishmael.

"So Abraham got up early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar, putting them on her shoulder, and gave her the boy, and sent her away. And she left [but lost her way] and wandered [aimlessly] in the Wilderness of Beersheba. When the water in the skin was all gone, Hagar abandoned the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him, about a bowshot away, for she said, 'Do not let me see the boy die.' And as she sat down opposite him, she raised her voice and wept. God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, 'What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy from where he is [resting]. 'Get up, help the boy up, and hold him by the hand, for I will make him

*a great nation.” **Then God opened her eyes** and she saw a well of water; and she went and filled the [empty] skin with water and gave the boy a drink. God was with Ishmael, and he grew and developed; and he lived in the wilderness and became an [expert] archer. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.”*

Gen. 21:14-21 AMP

Song: Open Our Eyes, Lord

Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch him,
and say that we love him.

Open our ears, Lord,
and help us to listen.

Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus.