

The Life of Faith: Going Astray

Genesis 16:1-16

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the morning service
Sunday 16th June 2024

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Jez
Alborough

1. A big mess (v1-6)

- Waiting

Genesis 16v1

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children.
But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar

1. A big mess (v1-6)

- Waiting
- Scheming

“Abraham and Sarai are not just departing from God’s design for marriage, they are not treating Hagar as a person with thoughts and feelings as a human being who is made in the image of God, but more like property. This is not just sexual harassment. It is sexual injustice. And in those days a servant had even less power than other women. No voice. So, Hagar is being exploited here and sinned against greatly.”

Jared Wilson

1. A big mess (v1-6)

- Waiting
- Scheming
- Conflict

“Family harmony is a good desire and something to work toward. But in God’s plan, it may not be what is most needed. What may be most needed is for our family to be a crucible of grace, a place where the heat of pressure forces sin to the surface, providing opportunities for the gospel to be understood and applied. And when this happens, the messes become mercies.”

Jon Bloom

2. A great grace (v7-16)

- God appears

Isaiah 42v3

A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out.
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice



2. A great grace (v7-16)

- God appears
- God hears

Genesis 16v11

The angel of the LORD also said to her:

“You are now pregnant

and you will give birth to a son.

You shall name him Ishmael,

for the LORD has heard of your misery.”

Genesis 16v10

The angel added, “I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count.”

2. A great grace (v7-16)

- God appears
- God hears
- God sees

Genesis 16v13-14

¹³ She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.” ¹⁴ That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.

“In the experience of Hagar there is a story of the way that the Lord in his love deals with us.”

David Prior

Genesis 16v15-16

¹⁵ So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

Romans 8v23-25

²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.