

THE GOD WHO SEES

Genesis 16.1-16

It is in our nature to resonate with the idea of doing things “My way” believing that individualism, strength, determination, and confidence can secure the outcome we desire. But what if that instinct is leading us in the wrong direction?

Sometimes the most daring thing we can do is trust that God’s way is better than our own.

Taking matters into our own hands

Waiting exposes our desire for control. Sarai’s barrenness becomes a threat to her security and identity, and over time, waiting on God begins to feel unbearable.

Rather than continuing to trust God’s promise, Sarai creates an alternative plan using Hagar as a means to achieve what she believes God has withheld.

When waiting stretches on and security feels vulnerable, even bad ideas can begin to sound reasonable.

The echoes of the Fall

The language of Genesis 16 deliberately mirrors Genesis 3. “Abram listened to the voice of Sarai,” echoing Adam listening to Eve.

In both accounts, God had already spoken clearly, and in both, the man relinquishes responsibility. Here, we notice that a shortcut replaces trust in God’s Word. Just as in Eden, a promise is doubted and a human solution replaces divine trust.

Sin rarely presents itself as destructive at first; it often appears reasonable, but it then leads to division, pain, and regret, and someone vulnerable always bears the cost.

The God who sees and hears

In the wilderness, the Angel of the Lord finds the hurting, rejected, and forgotten Hagar. He calls her by name—something Abram and Sarai never did. God speaks to her personally, gives her dignity, direction, and a promise of multiplied offspring. Hagar responds by naming God El Roi, “the God who sees me.” The only person in the Old Testament to give God a name.

God sees what no one else sees. He hears the cries of the hurting and meets them with grace and truth. Even when we run away or make a mess of things, the God who sees still pursues us with mercy.

Key Idea: When we are tempted to take control in seasons of waiting, the most daring thing we can do is trust that God's way is better than our own.

Application Questions:

In what area of your life are you currently tempted to "help God out" or take control because His timing feels too slow?

Where do you see echoes of the Fall in your own responses (listening to voices other than God's or choosing self-reliance over faith)?

How does the truth that God truly sees you (your pain, your failures, your waiting) bring comfort or change the way you respond in difficult seasons?

What practical step can you take this week to place your faith fully on God's promises, even in waiting or uncertainty?