

Genesis 15, 16:1—15

1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great."

2 And Abram said, "O Lord 2 GOD, what wilt Thou give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

3 And Abram said, "Since Thou hast given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir."

4 Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; but one who shall come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir."

5 And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Adoption of the Expedient

PROBLEMS SOMETIMES THEY GO AWAY BY IGNORING THEM, OTHER TIMES THEY JUST GET WORSE.

ALL OF US HAVE PROBLEMS; BIG PROBLEMS, LITTLE PROBLEMS, PESKY PROBLEMS, INCESSANT PROBLEMS.

I want to talk to you about a problem with its root cause was the promise of God.

Abram was chosen of God. He was counted as righteous by his life style. (ref. Romans 4).

He had been given great and precious promises that were given by God himself... "I Will be your God"

Everything that he did was orchestrated by the Hand of God in every turn, God was there

- He lived a life full of charity:
Abram had rescued his friends and neighbors out of distress out of charity, out of the motive of doing the right thing. Not because he wanted a reward or even thanks.
- He lived a life in following the path of God
Abram's great victory over four kings.
- He live a life of covenant
Gifts of love and companionship.

God was there. Where ever Abram went God was there before, behind and in middle.

A very special place to be. God was always leading and if Abram took a wrong turn, God was there to steer him back to the right path. God always pointing toward the high and might way. God always there to steer him right.

What a great place to be.

In that very special place of favor. As if being in the hollow of God's hand was not enough. God spoke up in with a new promise.

The word of the Lord came unto Abram

God manifested himself and his will to Abram *in a vision,*

The possibility here is that Abram was awake and God came to Abram.

Met him where he was.

No searching for a new blessing.

In his regular day to day life God showed up.

Don't fear

"What have I to fear? You have always taken care of me and mine.

God will be a shield

"But you always have been there shielding me from all that would hurt me.

Everything has been going well, so one more blessing is just gravy."

Hey God, while we are on the subject of blessing – I would really like a son. You know one to carry on after I am gone from this world. Lord if you really want to bless me how about a family?

If you want to bless me how about a kid or two...and they had better be boys .

I suppose you already know about the adoption.

Eliezer. sweet boy...but not just the same

v4

Then the Lord took him outside

It had to have one of those nights that could chill the soul. You know that perfectly clear night sky and the very stars above seem so close you could touch them. No moon just stars.

SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE.

Ok Lord if you say so.

In the back of his mind. I hope Sarai goes long this.

Went and told his wife.

SARAI. "I know you and God have a special relationship, but this is where I come in? I am included in this promise? Am I just going to take your word for this promise?"

Husband I am way beyond being able to have children. I would make a great Grandmother, but a mother, that's another story."

Husband it is going to difficult if impossible, but If it is God's will then so be it.

Total sign off to the concept.

- She went out and bought new baby furniture
- She rearranges the tent for the new arrival
- she made plans with her girlfriends for a shower
- started to make little clothes for the promised child
- When people came by, she would show to everyone the babies room.

but the years passed by

- the little booties became long stockings
- the curtains in the nursery began to fade
- the baby furniture became out of date.
- And still no child.

Oh there had been some miracle babies before

But She was becoming so old.

She thought...

- the promise must be fulfilled,
- at any cost it must be fulfilled
- She tries all kinds of things.
- keeps herself in the best physical condition
- early to bed and early to rise
- eats all the right foods.
- constantly trying to keep Abram interested
- But he was getting old too. '
- but still no child

Hey lord....is your clock stopped? if you are going to keep your promise you had better do it soon.

Finally, as the years passed and with all the hope of giving birth she started to look at other avenues of fulfilling the promise. I'll be a matchmaker. Pharaoh have given the family many handmaidens.

I want my husband and I to have the promise - but he is So SLOW.

HER DESIRE FOR THE PLAN TO COME TRUE BECAME GREATER THAN HER JUDGEMENT.

the custom was that if the first wife was without child that a second wife was to be appointed by the first and the offspring was to have all the rights of the first born.

IMPORTANT HERE

- God's plan was for Sarai to give birth.
- God's will is always perfect.
- God's will is orchestrated to be the best for Sarai and Abram

It would have been better to have waited.

She explicitly disobeyed the intent of God.

And her inordinate desire, produced irregular endeavors.

I. He that believes does not hassle.

- Lord....you have been so slow so I have come upon the perfect solution.
- the answer was Hagar
- the expediency of the situation seemed right.

Now she had to convince Abram,

Men put yourself in the bedroom of Abram

“dear I have an idea. If you would go to the bed of my servant we could have a baby to raise.”

I can feel the terrible place he was put it. Your wife is asking you to have intimate relations with someone not betrothed to.

Before you condemn the sweet aged Sarai for even suggesting this solution, it was according to custom to have more than one wife. The custom went on that your wife has not only given you her blessing but the person was to be picked one out for you.

And Sarai added on to her cast “God does seem awfully slow.”

Abram sees the door opening. “She is putting on a lot of pressure.” It is her idea. Why not?

2 Man’s solutions are not always God’s solutions.

FLESHLY WISDOM, NO MATTER HOW GOOD IT SEEMS, IF IT ANTICIPATES GOD'S WORKINGS... IF IT STEPS AHEAD, GOES FORWARD WITHOUT GOD'S EXPRESS FAVOR. IF IT PUSHES OPEN THE DOOR BEFORE GOD CAN OPEN IT IS WRONG.

Abram was persuaded by Sarai not by God.

It made sense to everyone but God.

Look at the problems it caused.

chap 16.4

Hagar went in to Abram as Sarai’s handmaiden came out as the mother of the only heir.

Hagar is pregnant, It changed her status from slave to wife, from bond slave to heir.

If you listen carefully enough you can almost hear Hagar with a sneer on her face saying to Sarai "God must love me more than you".

“God allowed me to become pregnant”

“Abram will love me more now that I am going to be the mother of the heir of the great promise.”

“And best of all now that I am pregnant I don't answer to you anymore.

3. Self-caused problems most often look for blame.

Sarai could not take it any longer she was suffering from her own sinful decision what does she do ?..

v5 Abram it is all your fault

You love her too much

all these problems have come because YOU accepted her

And without giving Abram a second to speak

she gives the problem up to God to judge.

Now Abram speaks and breaks that dreaded silence

did he point his finger at his scolding wife?

did he lose his temper?

No he just gave it back to Sarai

"You handle it, she is in your power

Now it was time for revenge.

made this young woman great with child life miserable

couldn't just order her away

forced her to run away

Hagar.. I am going home to mother Egypt.

in the wilderness by a spring

an angel v8

time for a check up...

where are you from....place of duty

where are you going. Running away

the greatest blessing God can ever give is to stop us on our headstrong flight into sin.

the angel was asking for an acknowledgment of her running wanted a confession

He got an excuse.

I flee from my Mistress

she expected mercy she instead received a command

Go home and behave better

be the person you are supposed to be

endure hardships. Amid the abuse, I will give mercy

safe delivery of a son name of child will be Ishmael (god will hear)

Lessons to be learned.

1. When you are given a promise, Let God do it.

2. When you are given a promise, don't get impatient
if you believe don't hassle
3. When the going gets rough you can't run away from the problems.

If you have a problem

God knows the problem

You can't run away from it

you can't run away from the consequences of the problem

you can't throw the responsibility on someone else

In other words, it's God's problem. Let him solve it.

God is the only remedy for problems.

He gives these things because:

The fact is, if you are God's child, then your problems are his problems. And he's much better at fighting your battles and solving your problems than you will ever be. Your job is to trust him to work it all out. Perhaps the reason we have so many tired, fatigued, and discouraged Christians is because we think, "It all depends on me."

The day you resign as General Manager of the Universe, you're going to find that it doesn't fall apart. You can relax in faith, trusting that God is able to run things without your help.

God to Abram: "Don't be afraid," When you face a seemingly impossible situation, don't be afraid, and don't be discouraged. Has God ever lost a battle? No. He doesn't lose battles.

You can stand firm on two things:

- The character of God. He's faithful. He does not bring us this far just to let us down. He won't bring you out on a limb and then cut off the limb. Have faith in the nature and character of God.
- The truth of his Word. God's Word is faithful. You can count on the promises found in the Bible.

Do you have a problem? Let go and let God.