

Human Reasoning And Divine Repercussions

Genesis 16:1-16

1. Human solutions to divine problems result in circumstantial chaos.

a. The divine problem.

Genesis 16:1a | ¹ Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children.

Genesis 11:30 | ³⁰ Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

b. The human solution.

Human solutions often reside in the form of a person.

Genesis 16:1b | ^{1b} She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar.

Human solutions often require a partner in the scheme.

Genesis 16:2a | ² And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her."

Human solutions often result in perilous capitulations.

Genesis 16:2b-4a | ² And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. ³ So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. ⁴ And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived.

c. The resultant chaos.

Genesis 16:4b-6 | ^{4b} And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. ⁵ And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!" ⁶ But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.

2. God's grace works to restore us to God, while not neglecting our discipline.

a. God's grace seeks us out in our sin.

Genesis 16:7-8 | ⁷ The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸ And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai."

b. God's grace solicits our repentance.

Genesis 16:9 | ⁹ The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her."

c. God's grace encourages us with a promise.

Genesis 16:10-11, 13-14 | ¹⁰ The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." ¹¹ And the angel of the Lord said to her, "Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has listened to your affliction."

Genesis 16:10-11, 13-14 | ¹³ So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." ¹⁴ Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

d. God's grace does not neglect our discipline.

Sin brings long term consequences.

Genesis 16:12 | ¹² He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen."

Sin brings near term complications.

Genesis 16:15-16 | ¹⁵ And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.