



Genesis 16:1-10 - ¹ Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; ² so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. ³ So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. ⁴ He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. ⁵ Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me." ⁶ "Your slave is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her. ⁷ The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. ⁸ And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered. ⁹ Then the angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." ¹⁰ The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."" (NIV)

FRUSTRATION TO ELEVATION

FRUSTRATION HAPPENS TO EVERYONE

Frustration takes many different faces. Frustration comes in many different forms. It might surprise you that some people who may not look like frustrated but actually they're dealing with greater challenges in life than you do. It might surprise you that people whom you envy could be dealing with huge problems than you do.

Every person makes a mess. God can turn your mess and change it to success. When your life is messy now, God is up to something. Sometimes a person doesn't know that his life is in a mess, until it becomes totally messy. Then, God will turn the mess into a life message.

PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENT REASONS FOR THEIR FRUSTRATION

Sarai was frustrated with the delay and she's putting matter into her own hands. She made a choice. Let me talk to you about controlling choice in your life. When the situation is outside of your control, how many know you still have a choice? And this is where we get confused. When our situation is outside our control, we assume that we don't have choice. **But it's not true.** The devil is a liar. You always have a choice.

You may be like Sarai who can't produce. You can't produce money for your family's needs. You're frustrated of what you can't do. You're frustrated with your son or daughter. Or you might be Hagar. You might be frustrated for what life put on you and you don't feel like you can handle. One is frustrated for what they don't have. And one is frustrated for having but don't know what to do with it. Both were frustrated. The frustration of failure. The frustration of success. They're both present in the text. And they both have a choice. We respond to frustration in different ways.

WE CAUSE OUR OWN FRUSTRATION

Genesis 16:2 - “so she said to Abram, “The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her.” Abram agreed to what Sarai said (NIV).”

Sometimes we do the right thing in the wrong way. Sometimes we need to go to a place and we go through the wrong route. You may want to raise successful kids. But if you’re forcing rules to them without teaching them about loving and submitting to God, one day they’ll grow up rebelling against you and your rules when they’re outside the house. What I like about Sarai is that she’s looking for a solution. However, solution without submission to God causes frustration. anytime you come up with your own solution but it is not in submission to God’s strategy, it will become your destruction. ***There will come a time in your life when God will tell you to WAIT.***

We can create a decision out of our frustration that will actually multiply our frustration. Decision made out of frustration can reproduce more problems in your life. You have to separate CONTROL from your CHOICE.

GOD FINDS US IN OUR FRUSTRATION

Genesis 16:7 - “The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur.” God finds us when we’re down. Hagar here was alone and she’s pregnant and she despised the people who did it to her.

People like Hagar will not force things to happen. She always runs, she always quits her job. Deep inside, they say, “Nobody talks to me this way. Nobody treats me this way. I don’t have to put up with this.” And then he quits and runs away. If you keep on running, if you keep on quitting, you may lose God’s prepared blessing for you. You’re always missing God’s blessings because you’re always running.

“There’s something so great happening in you, it will take a little time, but when it happens it’s going to be bigger and better than anything you imagined and wished for. So go back.” God wants you to be fruitful in your frustration. Something great and remarkable is going to come out of this. Something great is going to happen to those who submit to God’s process. Something great is going to happen to those who won’t quit.

Look at what happened to Hagar when she stopped running away and started to obey God’s commands. Genesis 16:13 - “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 (NIV).” When you stop seeing others, when you stop blaming others for your misfortune, you will start seeing God. You cannot blame and be blessed at the same time. You can play the blame game or you can be blessed but you can never be both.



- 1.) *Share a moment in your life when you became so frustrated?*
- 2.) *What did you do and what was the result?*
- 3.) *Share what you have learned during those times?*
- 4.) *What did you learn from today’s message?*