



The Impact of a Developed Perspective (Hagar's Development in Perspective)

February 9, 2025

Sermon Series Described

1. The Power and Impact of Your Perspective (It can define your potential)
2. **The Impact of a Developed Perspective (Minister Sheila Bishop)**
3. Isolation the High Price of a Different Perspective (Numbers 14)
4. The Tragic Results of a Dishonest Perspective (It can destroy your potential, Numbers 14)

Text: Genesis 16

Introduction:

Our perspectives are influenced by our circumstances and are further developed by our experiences. The impact of Hagar's circumstances forced her to a place and an encounter that became the catalyst of change in her perspective. Our attitudes can get us into situations that only evolved perspectives can get us out of.

I. The Circumstances Surrounding Hagar's Perspective: A Look at Hagar (Genesis 16)

- **She was named Hagar (v.1)**
"Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar."
- **She was identified by her status (Egyptian maidservant) (v.2)**
"... So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing children. **Please, go into my maid**; perhaps I shall obtain children by her."
- **She was considered property of Sarai (v.3)**
"Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took **Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife**, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan."
- **She was subject to the dictates of the culture (She became secondary wife)**
- **She showed disdain when she assumed promotion (v.4) (She sees herself differently)**
- **She created an uncomfortable situation for herself (v.6)**

“So Abram said to Sarai, “Indeed your maid is in your hand; do to her as you please.” And when **Sarai dealt harshly with her**, she fled from her presence.”

- She thinks running away will resolve her pain (v.6)

Note: She reached a breaking point in a situation that she created by her perspective, and she attempts to resolve her issue by running away from her situation. It is in her wilderness moment that she gains a perspective through her encounter.

II. The Encounter that Develops Her Perspective

- **Hagar is lost and fleeing from the situation**
- **Hagar has an encounter with God (v.7)**
“Now **the Angel of the Lord** found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur.”
- **Hagar is forced to take another look at her perspective (v.8)**
“And He said, “Hagar, Sarai’s maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?” She said, “I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai.”
- **Hagar reaches a turning point in perspective (v.9)**
“The Angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand.””
- **Hagar is given a promise from God (v.10)**
“Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, “I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude.”
- **Hagar names God (v.13, 14) (The God Who Sees)**
“Then she called **the name of the Lord** who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, “Have I also here seen Him who sees me?” 14 Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; observe, it is between Kadesh and Bered.”

Conclusion:

III. Perspectives We Gain from Hagar’s Story

- God **hears** us
“The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles.” (Psalm 34:17)



- God sees us
- God knows exactly where we are
- God fulfills every promise of his word
- God is the God of grace in seasons of disadvantage
- God cares, even when we create bad circumstances for ourselves