

Let us Pray

Lord, we know that at times we are impatient, we forget to turn to You and we act in haste. We ask, especially at this time that You bless us with patience and help us to remember that Your will be done in Your time. Amen.

16. HAGAR AND ISHMAEL

(GENESIS 16)

A T H E G O D W H O S E E S M
I N V T W M E U Y M Y G S U A
E A G I I L P S N J M Y J S I
Y Q L E L M J Y M L T P L A D
D D S M L N B J Q P G T P R S
E A E U A O H U P O N I B A E
S O T H B Q F G S L I A N I R
C Y K A R R D T L T R N S I V
E E N G A U N A H P P S L C A
N A B A M M O K J E S F P C N
D E Y R K E S R D N L M L M T
A D E S I P S E D R F O H E G
N Q Z E G S C B D A H C R R D
T U I S H M A E L P D U L D B
S T A D C Z U N R L R R Q X I

ABRAM
ISHMAEL
THE GOD WHO SEES
EGYPTIAN

HAGAR
SUBMIT
DESPISED
SON

SPRING
DESCENDANTS
SARAI
WILD

ANGEL OF THE LORD
MAIDSERVANT
WELL
FLED

May God's blessing surround you each day.

As we trust in and walk in his way;

May His presence within,

Guard and keep us from sin;

Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

30/08/2020—Genesis 16

Waiting on God's Time



WAITING ON GOD'S TIME

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!” . Psalm 27:14

Good morning and welcome to today's worship.

This week's hymn is called “I Will Wait For You” it comes from Psalm 130 and is really beautiful the tune and lyrics can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJUqY_6tqo

Lord from the depths I call to You

Lord hear me from on high

And give attention to my voice

When I for mercy cry

1 Out of the depths I cry to You

In darkest places I will call

Incline Your ear to me anew

And hear my cry for mercy, Lord

2 Were You to count my sinful ways

How could I come before Your throne

Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze

I stand redeemed by Grace alone

I will wait for You

I will wait for You

On Your Word, I will rely

I will wait for You

Surely wait for You

Till my soul is satisfied

3 So put your hope in God alone

Take courage in His power to save

Completely and forever won

By Christ emerging from the grave

I will wait for You....

4 Now He has come to make a way

And God Himself has paid the price

That all who trust in Him today

Find healing in His sacrifice

I will wait for You...

I will wait for You.....

For Your love is my delight

Our reading today is Genesis 16—Hagar and Ishmael

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2016&version=NIV>

In Genesis 16 we hear about Sarai and Hagar. Sarai wanted children but grew impatient about not having any children so she thought it would be a good idea for Abram to have a child with her servant, Hagar. Back then, it was customary for whatever the servant had, was actually the master's. Abram listened to his wife and had a child with Hagar. Well, as you can guess, in reality, that didn't work out so well. Sarai rushed God's plan. She thought that she knew better.

Isn't that like us sometimes? We think that God isn't moving fast enough or we think that we know better and so we act, usually rashly and irrationally. We don't think through the situation and wait for God's plan to be revealed to us.

How do we know when we are supposed to act and when are we supposed to wait?

There are many passages in the Bible that remind us to wait for God's timing especially when we are in difficult times.

Psalm 27:14 – “Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Isaiah 40:31 – “Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.”

Waiting can be a very good thing! Waiting is when we gain strength. But how? Do we just do nothing while we're waiting? No! we learn in Proverbs

Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

Proverbs 16:3 – “Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.”

While we wait, we are to pray and stay in God's Word. We are to be in a close relationship with God trusting that He is working everything out for our good. He wants what's best for us.

Waiting can be difficult, almost excruciating sometimes. Sometimes it feels as though God has left us alone to deal with our problems or plans. Just remember the last words that Jesus said, in Matthew 28:20, before He ascended into heaven, “and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” That is a comfort to us that He is always with us and will never leave us.

Sarai didn't wait for God's plan, she thought she needed to intervene. She waited, just not long enough. How was Sarai to know how long to wait and that she wasn't supposed to do something? The problem with Sarai's decision, was that she didn't do it God's way. She had her husband sleep with another woman in order to have a baby. Do you think that was God's plan? No! God told Sarai that SHE would have a baby, not her servant. By Sarai not doing things God's way, she created problems. That's why we need to be in God's word while we are waiting, so that we can line up what we think God wants us to do with His Word.

These last months have left us waiting & wanting. Waiting for life to get back to normal, wanting to do all the things that we used to in the same way we did them previously. However, we need to wait in God's time, not ours committing all we do to God.

Wait, pray, stay in His time, and then we'll have our answer. Just be open to what His plans are, not yours.