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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Site logo image | Martha Rodman posted: " Therefore, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, 'You are the God who sees me". Genesis 16:13 NLT. As I read this scripture yesterday, it struck me once again that we are people who are seen. Not only seen but " [**Faith Encounters**](http://faithencounters.impart.org) [Read on blog](http://faithencounters.impart.org/2024/01/18/faith-and-seen/) or [reader](https://public-api.wordpress.com/bar/?stat=groovemails-events&bin=wpcom_email_click&redirect_to=https%3A%2F%2Fwordpress.com%2Fread%2Fblogs%2F127938330%2Fposts%2F3115&sr=1&signature=3e75ea5f196fffeb34d2f14433f8c66c&user=d4772d34747c29138d6356de987fff13&_e=&_z=z) |  [Faith and Seen](https://public-api.wordpress.com/bar/?stat=groovemails-events&bin=wpcom_email_click&redirect_to=http%3A%2F%2Ffaithencounters.impart.org%2F2024%2F01%2F18%2Ffaith-and-seen%2F&sr=0&signature=36da183665a8a6f6b6a534c52966c695&blog_id=127938330&user=d4772d34747c29138d6356de987fff13&_e=&_z=z)  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | https://0.gravatar.com/avatar/3f13af1d3e2a35ad581f9ba697fd060a4b7d8a719664a4a449058f8ff4e8c587?s=96&d=identicon&r=G | **Martha Rodman**  Jan 18 |   Therefore, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, 'You are the God who sees me". Genesis 16:13 NLT.  As I read this scripture yesterday, it struck me once again that we are people who are seen. Not only seen but seen by a powerful God who can do something about our situation. Hagar, an Egyptian slave girl did not have an easy life. We don't know how she became a slave to Sarai, Abrams wife, but she was in their midst. I wish I knew her backstory.  Most of us know the story, but let's go through it again. God promised Abram a son, even though they were well passed child bearing age. Sarai got impatient and following a tradition suggested that Abram father a child through her maid Hagar. Hagar had no say in the matter. Genesis 16:1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named, Hagar; 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."  From the advantage of hindsight, we can see all the problems with this choice. God had promised them children, but Sarai is blaming the Lord for keeping her from having children. I think every month Sarai did not conceive brought her more and more despair. By now, Abram was about 85 years old which made Sarai 75 years old. I can see why their faith might have struggled, can't you? So Sarai comes up with this plan for her to use Hagar in hopes she could build a family through her. This was a common practice in their culture, but not God's plan for their legacy.  Reading this story always makes me take a pause and pray, "Father, please help me to find and follow Your will, not my good ideas. Help me trust You and Your plans, no matter what". I want to encourage us all to do the same. God's ways are always higher than our ways and usually don't look like our ways.  So Abram slept with Hagar and she conceived. Instead of the happy family Sarai must have pictured in her mind, Hagar began to hold Sarai in contempt. Sarai then blamed Abram! Then Sarai said to Abram, this is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she's pregnant she treats me with contempt. The Lord will show who's wrong--you are me! Abram replied, "look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit." Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away. Genesis 16:5-6. NLT. This triangle relationship did not work on any level!  Not one of these people really did the right thing. Abram, as the husband and the one God had spoken to, should have said ' no, that's not what God said, we are going to trust Him.' Sarai did not think things through when it came to her own heart. Her heart wasn't in the right place to enlarge it to encompass Hagar as a pregnant sister wife. Hagar acted very immature in her attitude toward Sarai--all things we can and should learn from.  So Hagar runs away into the wilderness. There is a surprise twist to this story. Neither Abram nor Sarai go after her. But she has the most amazing encounter. The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. He not only found her, but he encouraged her. He began to instruct her to go back to Sarai and submit to her authority. You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means God hears), for the Lord has heard your cry of distress. How amazing. I think it is interesting that Hagar got to name her son, instead of Abram. But the angel went on to tell her a few more things about her son, that I don't know if she really wanted to know! This son of yours will be a wild man, as untamed as a wild donkey. He will raise his fist against everyone, and everyone will be against him. Yes, he will live in open hostility against all his relatives. I am sure this is something she pondered in her heart.  My friends, God see you. He sees your circumstances and He is moving on your behalf, as you participate with Him. Hagar went back to Sarai and hopefully they both treated each other with a bit more respect. Sarai only had the promise of a child at this point. It would be 14 more years till she bore her own child. What a test. We do know that after Isaac was born, Sarah demanded that Abraham send Hagar and Ishmael away. Genesis 21 tells the story of Hagar's next encounter with the God who sees. He doesn't forget her, nor does he forget us. Please be encouraged, no matter how many times you hear this story, let it go deep into your soul. Take encouragement also from Colossians 1:23. But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News.  Father, I thank you for seeing us. Let the fact You, the God of the Universe sees them and is helping them make a difference in their hope and faith today. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | |  | |  |  | | --- | |  | |