**Family Secrets – Family Matters – Gen. 16:**

**The Family Matters to God & the accomplishing of His purposes in the world**

1. God created the family to consist of one man married to one woman for life:

to bring children into the world; to provide a place of love, acceptance, support & encouragement

1. God purposed to bless the world in the coming of the Lord Jesus through the family of Abraham
2. God purposes to use families to advance the gospel in the world
3. *Sinful family secrets hinder & slow God’s purposes for using the family to accomplish His purposes in the world*

**Focal Truth: God sees our family secrets**

**The Family Plan of God to Abraham** – Gen. 15:4 – for out of your body shall come your heir

1. God chose Abraham to be the father of the promised seed – Messiah Lord Jesus

12:1 - *I will make you a great nation and I will bless you and make your name great, and so you will be a blessing – and in you all the families of the earth will be blessed*

1. God made a covenant – agreement with Abraham to bless him & give him a son in his old age – 15:4 – *one will come from your body, he shall be your heir*
2. Abraham believed the promise of God 15:6 – *then he believed in the Lord, and He reckoned it to him as righteousness*

Gal. 3 – *the Scriptures foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying all the nations will be blessed in you.*

**The Family Plan of Abraham & Sarah – Gen. 16:2**

*So, Sarai said to Abram, now behold the Lord has prevented me from bearing children, please go into my maid, perhaps I will obtain children through her. And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai*

1. Sarai was unable to have children & blamed God for her condition
2. Sarai had an Egyptian maid named Hagar
3. Sarai’s family plan was to obtain children by Hagar being a **surrogate mother** 16:2
4. I cannot have children
5. Have a child with Hagar my maid
6. The children of Abraham and Hagar will be my children
7. Abram listened & accepted Sarai’s family plan for obtaining children

**Consider**

* Abram’s faith was tested by Sarai’s plan – **Trust God’s plan or Sarai’s plan?**
* **Abram failed to trust God for a child – He chose Sarai’s plan**

**The Family Secret of Abraham & Sarah 16: 3**

*After 10 years in the land of Canaan, Abram’s wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife.*

1. 10 years after Sarai’s family plan the family secret took place
2. Sarai gave Hagar to Abraham as his wife 16:3
3. Abraham had sexual relations with Hagar & she became pregnant

**Consider**

* Abram and Sarai disobeyed the designed God made for marriage – one man to one woman for life
* Abram did not take responsibility for leading his wife in this family decision
* Abram submitted to Sarai’s family plan without any opinion
* Abram did not speak to God about Sarai’s family plan – He simply acted without God’s approval or guidance

**The Family Fight between Abraham & Sarah - 16:4 – 6**

*He went in to Hagar, and she conceived, and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight. And Sarai said to Abram, may the wrong done me be upon you. I gave my maid into your arms, but when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her sight. May the Lord judge between you and me. But Abram said to Sarai, behold your maid is in your power do to her what is good in your sight. So, Sarai treated her harshly, and she fled from her presence*

1. Sarai attacks Abraham in her resentment for him taking Hagar as his wife
2. Hagar despised Sarai as the wife of Abraham – Sarai was childless
3. Sarai blames Abram for having a child with Hagar
4. Abraham took no responsibility in the family plan as the husband to two women!
5. Abraham despised Hagar – leaving her in the hands of his bitter wife Sarai

“Do to her what is good in your sight”

1. Sarai treated Hagar harshly and Hagar ran away

**Consider**

* Doing God’s work – man’s way is sin
* Family decision outside of God’s will produce family fights, sins & shameful secrets!

**The God who sees the family secret of Abram & Sarai – 16:7 – 13**

*Now the Angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness…I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai. He said to her, return to your mistress and submit yourself to her authority. He said, I will greatly multiply your descendant…she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her,* ***You are the God who sees***

1. The Angel of the Lord found Hagar by a well
2. The Angel of the Lord told her to go submit to her mistress & submit to her authority
3. The Angel promised that her descendants would be great
4. The Angel named her son to be born **Ismael – “God had given heed to your affliction**”
5. Hagar called the Lord – **El Roi – “The God who Sees**”

**Consider**

* God found Hagar in her loneliness, rejection & pain
* God directed her to go back & submit to Sarai
* God blessed her in her lonely, helpless condition
* God assured her of His blessing on her as the wife of Abram & the coming child

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. Sinful family decisions rely on human wisdom not God’s will & wisdom
2. Sinful family decisions produce sinful family secrets
3. You can never take back sinful family decisions – they produce shame & coverup!
4. **God sees all our family secrets – He sees & knows your family!**
5. Confess your family secrets to God – He will give grace & mercy for your situation

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**