

## When God Seems Silent

*The folly of getting ahead of God...*

Genesis chapter 16

*Some of the hardest times in our lives are those times when God seems a million miles away...when it feels like He's silent...not there. Most bible characters experienced periods of times when this was true of their own lives; Job...Noah...Moses...Jeremiah...Jesus.*

*Sarai is a woman in our story who got frustrated with God's silence in her life. She had wanted a baby, but it wasn't happening.*

**Sarai's story:** In her mind at 75+ years there was no hope that she would ever have a baby. Even more frustrating for her was the fact that God had promised her husband that she would have a son thus fulfilling her heart's desire. But God's timing is different than ours.

**Sarai's Solution:** Sarai could not wait on God so she tried to \_\_\_\_\_ matters along. (Gen 16:2-4). Sarai gives Abram \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ with her servant girl. *So in a moment of 'brilliance' Abram decides to accept the offer of his wife.*

**Abram's Failure:** Abram failed to take care of his wife...he failed in 2 ways:

- 1.) He did not \_\_\_\_\_ God.
- 2.) He \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ his wife.

**What To Do When God Seems Silent:**

## *Three lessons we learn from Sarai*

**# I.) Expect it to be \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Question:** *Do you know why God is sometimes silent when we go through difficulties?* Because God uses those \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_.

author In the difficulty of waiting through a time of silence or hardship  
**Charles Stanley** says to consider asking these four questions of God:

1. Are you trying to \_\_\_\_\_ me something?
2. Do I have \_\_\_\_\_ sin?
3. What do you want me to \_\_\_\_\_?
4. How are you preparing me for your \_\_\_\_\_?

**# II.) Don't \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Truth:** Spiritual outcomes are never \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ means.

**#III.) Do Not \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Sarai's Big Mistake:** She \_\_\_\_\_ she \_\_\_\_\_ God.\_

The culture approved

Sarai approved

Hagar said yes

Abram agreed...but God didn't.

**Do you know what's worse than NOT waiting on  
God?**

\_\_\_\_\_ you had \_\_\_\_\_ on God...