

The God Who **SEES** Me

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My year

Wilderness times are when we experience the presence of God in deep and profound ways.

God asks

God asks “beautiful” questions

Beautiful questions enable us to more honest - with God and ourselves.

Hagar says, “I’m running away from my mistress Sarai.” I’m trying to get away from my situation. I’m doing something I know others will say is bad and wrong. But I’m running because I can’t take it anymore. Totally raw, honest stuff

God hears

When Hagar hears that Yahweh has heard of your misery, it is God saying: I know. I do know how hard it’s been. I have been paying attention. I

To be heard is to be loved.

Nothing about what has happened to us has been ignored or forgotten

God sees

We are known and understood.

They are the questions that help us accept the wilderness journey God is taking us on. In the story Yahweh directs Hagar to go back to Sarai. But she goes back knowing that God has been paying attention to her situation the whole time. She goes back with God’s amazing promises for her, her son, and her legacy. And she goes back having had one of the most intimate encounters a person in the Bible has with God: She is the only person in the Bible to give God a new name. And names the well where she has the encounter Beer Lahai Roi - The God Who Sees Me. In good times and secure times we may take God and life for granted. But in the wilderness, in the hardest times, that’s when we experience the deepest intimacy with God, and know what it is like to be fully seen and known by Love.

But notice that God doesn’t fix the situation. He is present and he declares strong promises for Hagar and for her child. But there’s still a lot of wilderness to go through. It isn’t going to be easy.

Conclusion

God doesn’t bring any quick fixes. The journey for Hagar is just starting. It gets worse for her in Gen 21. She will be out in the wilderness again, but this time it’s because Abraham sends her away. Then the fear gets really real.

But God shows up. God always shows up.

Benediction – A Celtic Blessing

The God of life and listening hold you.

The love of Christ companioning enfold you.

The power of the Spirit move and mould you.

The Peace of All Peace enbold you, Amen.