

Pt. 1 – The God Who Sees Me

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C. Elijah Bronner: So often we focus on our past so much, we have no idea of our future.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is part one of the message titled, "The God Who Sees Me." By C. Elijah Bronner. This message is number 7618. That's 7618. Listen to over a thousand free messages on brothersoftheword.com.

(Music Playing 00:00:18 – 00:00:47)

Female: And now for 7618 "The God Who Sees Me" part one.

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of The Word because brother, you need the Word. We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online and brothersoftheword.com certainly delighted to have you join in and tune in with us on today.

Well, I would like to read just a little humor that I came across this week and there were two elderly couples were enjoying a friendly conversation when one of the men asked the other, "Fred, how was the memory clinic you went to last month?" "Outstanding" Fred replied. They taught us all the latest psychological techniques, visualization, association, et cetera. It was great." That's great, and what was the name of the clinic? Fred went blank. He thought and thought but couldn't remember. Then a smile broke across his face and he asked "What do you call that flower with a long stem and thorns?" You mean a rose? "Yes, that's it." Fred turned to his wife and said, "Rose, what was the name of the clinic?"

Well, if you will open your Bibles to the Book of Genesis, the Book of Genesis chapter 16. The Book of Genesis chapter 16, the Book of Genesis chapter 16. There's a wonderful account here in this entire chapter of Genesis 16 that we can glean from, and learn some things from. This whole chapter is actually about one particular account dealing with Abraham and his wife, Sarah and this had been 10 years after Abraham and Sarah were promised a child. So, 10 years had gone by and so, they were getting older and they were starting to get a little fidgety because you know, they were advancing in age and 10 years had gone by, so this thing, it was taking a long time. Sarah had an idea, she said, "Well, maybe God wanted you to have a child by

Hagar, my handmaiden,” and Abraham was quiet. Sarah said, “I’m just going to give you my handmaiden, Hagar and you’d go into her and you have a child with her.” And Abraham said, “Honey, if you insist.” Abraham was very cooperative. He was very cooperative with Sarah’s plan.

And so sure enough, Hagar did conceive and after a while, Hagar, who was just an Egyptian girl, a handmaiden servant and now, she is now carrying Abraham’s child and she began to have a little attitude around the house. Sarah starts telling her to do some things. Well, this was her handmaiden and Hagar had a little attitude. Hagar didn’t want to do anything because she felt like, “Well, I’m the new “it” because I’ve done something you weren’t able to do and now, I have probably won the affection of Abraham.” So, you know, for sure you know how it went. Well, let me be quiet. Let me be quiet, I almost got myself in trouble. I see some of the women just gritting their teeth at me right now. I had to be very careful right there. But you can imagine two women sharing the same space, sharing the same husband, you can imagine that rivalry. The one old and one new and this new one has come in and started to take over and the old one holds the power and the authority but the new one holds so much of the newness and Abraham’s life. And he knows -- about to be a bouncing baby boy around the house and it’s hers.

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And so, there’s a little conflict that arises and so, Sarah goes off on Abraham. Abraham is you know, he’s quiet. I’ve never seen someone stay quiet this long. Abraham has not said a word. You know, this is between the two women so Abraham just keeps his mouth shut. Wise man, and the man said, --. I mean, there is not one word out of Abraham. Abraham, he had great wisdom. He was just simply quiet and so, these women were kind of going at in and Abraham stayed out of it. He didn’t say one word, not one word. He didn’t try to make any suggestions or bringing any solutions to the problem. Abraham just stayed out of it. Had never seen the man that quiet for so long. And so, finally, Sarah, she went off on him and she began to give Abraham a piece of her mind and she began to blame him, even though it was her idea. Abraham, as he’s caught between these two things. But you know, Abraham took it like a man, he knew

he couldn't say anything so Abraham still remained quiet, so, he allows Sarah to go off.

We learned some things from this account that when God has promised something and when it takes longer than we anticipate, we can get into the flesh and try to make things happen and the flesh that's not God's will, that's not God's timing and we end up making a mess. We end up causing confusion when this happens and so, we learn from this account something. To look at this account from a stand point of faith, it's easy for us to look at them and say, "Yeah, yeah, they should have waited." Folks, you got to realize, they had waited 10 years, they were getting older. Abraham is probably 85 years old by now. They were getting old. Sarah wasn't getting any younger and so, from their stand point, I sort of understand, 10 years had gone by, no child, no sign of a child, they're getting older. So, I can understand the flesh wanting to do something, wanted to do something, but it ended up getting them in a mess and all of this confusion took place and it's taking place in these relationships, things were tense.

Sarah goes off on Abraham. Abraham remains quiet. He said, "You know honey, she's your handmaiden, whatever you want to do, it's fine by me. So, Sarah starts going off on Hagar. So, Sarah's going off on everybody now. Even though it was her idea. And this is something we learn that often times we'll blame others and we'll lash out at others, when we ourselves have made the mistake. Instead, of fessing up and saying, "Hey, I was wrong. I made a bad decision, bad choice and seeking forgiveness and repentance." So, often, instead of doing that, we will lash out, we will lash out on others and we will pass the blame. We won't take responsibility for our decisions and actions and we start lashing out blaming others and this is the case of what happened in this particular scenario. After Sarah got so bad on Hagar, Hagar finally left because she couldn't take any longer and things had gone terribly wrong and she was just being mistreated and she just couldn't take it any longer and so, she left.

And so, the account picks up, I just wanted to give you that background so you'll understand where the account picks up, and we can actually start reading around verse 6. But Abram said unto Sarai, "Behold, thy maid is in thine hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee." And when Sarah dealt hardly with her, she

fled from her faith. And the angel of the Lord found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur. And he said, "Hagar, Sarah's maid, whence comest thou and wither will thou go?" Now, notice, the angel asked her a question and you know in the Old Testament, whenever you seen an angel of the Lord, often times, and it's a lot of debate on this, but often times where it's called the angel of the Lord, often times that was God himself appearing in a close to a physical form. And this began to be the type and shadow of what would happen in the New Testament when God would come in Christ Himself. He was showing up in the Old Testament and often times you will see this angel of the Lord and many scholars likened this angel of the Lord to God Himself. This was not merely an angel but this is God Himself. Now, this was not merely an angel but this is God Himself. You will find some of the angels actually speaking in first person. They'll say, "I've told you not to do this." So, they'll come speaking as God and the Hebrew, and the Israelites, they revered them as God.

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And so, they were different angels but there were particular times where the angel of the Lord could have been God Himself showing up. And, so this angel asked her a question, and whenever God ask us a question, it's not because, He doesn't know the answer. God ask us a question for introspection, for us to look in ourselves and He wants to cause us to reflect. He wants to make us think. And so, He asked the question. Now, notice what He said. He says, "Where are you coming from and where are you going?" He knew where she came from, He called Sarah's maid. He said, "Hey, Sarah's maid, where are you going? Why you come -- He knew exactly where she came from but He wanted her to think about it.

You are a person who is in a particular assignment. What are you doing out here? This is what He wanted her to think about. You are someone's handmaid and you've been given as someone's wife. What are you doing out of your role, out of your position, out of your place? What are you doing out here? He wanted her to think about how she was out of place. How she was out of place. He wanted her to think about where she was going. Now, this was an Egyptian, this was an Egyptian slave. This was an Egyptian girl here and so; she was on her way back to Egypt. She was trying to get back home. He left, she was

headed back to a place of idolatry, place of sin, and this is why God, asked her the question, “Where are you from? Where are you going?” So many people would be kept from trouble if they will just stop in the middle. And say, “Where am I from? And where am I going?” Where am I from? Where am I going? Is this really what I want to be doing? Is this really where I should be going? Where am I from? What is my heritage? And so, here’s a question we can all adopt in our lives.

When you get off track and find yourself out somewhere. Ask yourself that question. Where am I from and where am I going? Where am I from and where am I going? Now, she had an interesting response, she starts talking about her past, she starts talking about her past. She never said where she was going. And so, often, we focus on our past, we focus on our past so much we have no idea of our future. That’s all that she talked about, she never mentioned where she was going. She only talked about where she came from. This question calls her to take inventory, calls her to look within. And so, questions of what God uses for us to ponder, for us to think, and so then, after this point, after she converses with God, or this angel, she gets excited because she realized that God sees her. She realizes that God sees her and it changed her life, it changed her life and that’s really my subject.

I hadn’t given a subject but that’s the subject I want to talk about today and I’m going to probably deal with this next week, “The God Who Sees Me.” The God who sees me. The God who sees me. The God who sees me. Now, this name “The God Who Sees Me,” is actually a name that Hagar gave God. Hagar actually came up with this name and she gave this name to God. And so, we now know that name today as “El Roi” the God who sees. The God who sees. This is the only instance El Roi is used in the scriptures and it was Hagar who ascribed this name to God. And I like the way that she personalized it. We didn’t finish reading but, I like the way she personalized it as you get further in the chapter. She says, “This is the God who sees me. The God who sees me.” That made it personal, that made it personal. God sees me. Turn to your neighbors and say, “God sees me.” God sees me. God sees me. God sees me. So, she made it personal which implies to your value as a person, your value as an individual, your value in God’s sight. Because you have to keep in mind, she was a nobody, she was a servant girl, an Egyptian servant girl who was despised, rejected, cast away,

scorned. She felt abused, she felt belittled, she felt alone, she was dejected, she was rejected. She was in this desolate place and this place is a place that we all come to at some point or sometime in our lives.

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We all reached this point where we feel like we are all alone. Nobody knows what I'm going through, nobody knows what has happened to me. Nobody cares, nobody understands, I'm in this all by myself and this is a desolate place and I think everyone of you live long enough, you'll eventually hit this place. You know, this is Hagar's place if you wanted to put a title on it, it's Hagar's place. And we all reach this place at some point in our lives, where we feel mistreated or we feel misunderstood, we feel like we've suffered unjustly at someone else's hands. There's something we've been wronged in life. We feel unloved and abused and so, this is a Hagar, this is a Hagar moment. And we all have Hagar moments in life. We all Hagar moments in life and right in the middle of this Hagar moment, God sees her. God sees her. God sees her when she's dejected, when she is hurt, when she's in pain, when she's confused, when she's belittled, when she's abandoned, when she's all alone, God sees her. When He saw her, it changed her life. It changed her life. She couldn't believe that God --. Now, here's God, the Creator of the universe who runs everything. You mean God, took the time out for little old me? God, took the time out to come see little of old me? Now, He's running all of the world affairs, He's running all the universe, all the cosmic things that are going on. He's running the solar system. He's keeping the earth perfectly weighted and balance, spinning on its axis. He's running all of this.

You mean, He came to see a servant? A little servant handmaiden? Who's beat down and depressed and rejected? Who's abused and mistreated and misunderstood. The God who sees me. Man, didn't that give you encouragement? That gives you encouragement, that God sees us. God sees us. El Roi. Now, don't get that confused with Jehova Roi, there is a Jehova Roi, that's the Lord our Shepherd. That's another sermon, we'll do that one later. But this is El Roi, this is El Roi, this is El Roi, El Roi, the God who sees me, the God who sees me, the God who

sees me, the God who sees me, the God who sees me. We'll look at some more of this account, there are some other powerful things in this account. But also, I want to show you in scripture, even though, this is the only place in scripture where El Roi is used, that is not the only place in scripture where God sees us.

Oh man, that's the exciting part. And so, God is all over the Bible. God is all over the Bible doing one on one with us. One on one with us. And it just shows us that He's personal, and that's why she said, "He's the God who sees me." He's not just a God who sees, she made it personal. He's the God who sees me. Didn't that give you a great comfort to know that God sees you? God sees you. God sees you. God sees you. God sees you. Oh man, God sees you, God sees you. She got so excited. She's kind of like the woman at the well. The woman at the well had this very similar experience. In fact, this is the well. I forgot about that. This woman is at the well.

In fact, she --, I'm all over in the next week, but that's okay. She names this well, Beer Laura O something I can't remember the name. But she names this well and this is what that means, she names the well, "The one who lives and who sees me." That's what she named that well. The one who lives and who sees me. She got so excited because she found out that God knew her personally. And that God saw her plight and that God came to visit her and that God came with good news. Praise God. Praise God. Oh man, I'm so excited, I'm so excited. I wish I can just preach part two of this right now, but I'm out of time. I thought I would give much further than this tonight. But I had fun anyway. I had fun anyway. Oh man, I'm so excited, I didn't even get off of page one.

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Man, this is an exciting study, I got really excited at studying that. The God who sees me. The God who sees me. And when she had that experience, she named that well. She got so excited. She named that well, to be a reminder, to be a reminder. And so that says to us that whenever you have an experience with God, where God highlights you personally and you know He's highlighting you personally. When God does something for you, when you have an experience and you know something happened or He did something on your behalf, and you know it was God, and you know it was just for you. That's

one of those Hagar moments and you too should make a reminder of that, you should --. She named the well, so she would never forget that. This well is named, "The one who lives who sees me." She would never forget it and not only will she not forget it because that was the name of the well, everybody else who came in that well had to be introduced to the one who lives and sees me. In other words, you got to share, you got to share your testimony with others. When God gives you a personal highlight experience, you got to share it with the others because it'll inspire others to believe in Him and to have trust in Him as well. So, her testimony was so powerful.

Now, let's go back. I had talked a little bit about the woman at well in the Gospel of John. She had a similar experience. Remember, she ran through the city and said, "Come, see a man." Come, see a man who told me everything that I've ever done. He told me everything about me. She ran into the God who sees me. She ran into the same God, the God who sees me. And she got so excited, she ran through the whole city, come see a man, come see a man. So, God will give you experience where it highlights you. He'll do something for you and you know especially for you it's just His way of letting you know that He sees you. That He knows you. That He's aware of you. That He's actually working in your life. He hasn't forgotten you. He hasn't forsaken you. He is with you. Oh man, I'm just so excited here. I'm getting so excited here. And when you share this, so you not only get a reminder for yourself. God did something for me a while a back and I got the reminder. I got a reminder, I put it on my desk.

I shared it with Brother Ivan, Brother Ivan got so excited about it. He said, "Make me a copy of it." So, he took a copy of my object and he put it in his wallet because he said, "This inspired me to let me know that God knows me too." He said, "God, knows me too." It's the same way this woman did. She named the well for her benefit but also to let everybody else know who came in that well. There is a God who lives and He sees you. Now, here's an odd thing, this woman was not an Israelites, she's an Egyptian. She had no inheritance. She had no right to the things of God. Now, if God saw her, how much more when He see you in your blood bound by your son. You're an arrow(ph) God, you're joining over Christ Jesus. Oh, my goodness, let me stop. I'm preaching myself out. Oh, my

goodness, she was an Egyptian. She was an Egyptian, she had no right to God. She had no to God, she was an Egyptian. God only dealt with His chosen people. She had no right. All right, I'm done, I'm done, I'm done. I'm done, I'm done.

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