

From the Pastor's Desk. Title; A Family trouble.

Text; Genesis 16:1-16

A family gets developed from one man desiring to have a wife or a woman desiring to have a husband. The two goes on and gets a child and then children. The children also goes on making other children till a clan is born, then a village then a country then a World. Today the world is one family. However what we do in our families today and the reactions we make over the problems we undergo can put the whole World family on a ransom. Briefly let us examine what happened in Abraham's tent.

THE REASONS FOR THE TROUBLE; While all the reasons behind this fiasco are far too many to mention, there are three reasons that warrant mentioning.

1. The Acceptance They Were Desiring 16: 2. Abraham had been promised a son who would come from a barren and free woman but due to the public mockery he failed to wait on God's promise. Many are the affiliations we get in order to compete with this World. Sometimes we listen to the mockeries of the public and we forgot the promises of God to us contained in the Bible.

2. The Baggage They Were Dragging v. 1. The Bible tells us that Hagar was an Egyptian. She is part of the possessions that Abram brought back with him from his sinful journey into Egypt, **Gen. 12:10-20**. Had he never journey to that country, there would have been no Hagar to marry! He is still reaping the harvest he sowed in Egypt! (**Note:** You never go into sin and come out clean! There is always some reminder, some evidence that you were there! That is the Law of Sowing and Reaping, **Gal. 6:7-8**.)

3. The Promises They Were Doubting – Gen 15:4 Gen. 15:1-6 tells the story of God's great promise to Abram. When the promise was given, Abram reacted in faith, but as time has gone by, Abram has begun to doubt. He, along with Sarai, decides that God needs help in fulfilling His promise.

THE REACTIONS TO THE TROUBLE; It is all right to react to problems. Here we see these family members reacting differently to this common problem. All three reacted differently, but it is worthy to note that all three reacted badly. By the way, when sin and its problems, or any problem from any source, for that matter, arrives in our lives, most of the people in this room will react to it in one of these three manners.

A) V. 6 Abram Reacted By Being Unaccountable – Abraham tried to pretend that there was no problem and that if there was a problem, it was Sarai's to deal with. He totally ignored his responsibility in the whole situation. (**Note:** Many people try to deal with their problems by simply ignoring them. Unsattled small problems grow into bigger ones in a short time. Ill. **2 Sam. 13:1-39** - David ignored the problem of Amnon and Tamar and the problem grew until Absalom took matters into his own hands and killed his brother!) (**Note:** Therefore, whether it be a problem in the home, on the job, in the community, at school or in the church, it must be confronted and dealt with or it will get out of hand. Just ask Abram!)

B) V. 5 Sarai Reacted By Being Unreasonable –Sarai was miserable because of the pride and haughtiness of Hagar, so she tried to make everyone else around her miserable too. She tried to blame Abram for the problem. She tried to blame Hagar for the problem. She even dragged God into the problem. There are many who approach the problems of life with a similar attitude. If they are unhappy, they want everyone else around them to be unhappy as well.

C) V. 6b-9 Hagar Reacted By Being Unavailable — Hagar decided that the answer to her problems was flight. She just packed up and left to get away from the problem. (**Note:** This is the most common response of all! When problems arise at church, don't seek a solution, seek a new church. When problems arise on the job, don't fix it, find a new job. When problems crop up in the marriage, don't work it out, just find yourself a new mate.