

I wonder how many children ever truly know what some mothers go through in being a mother. Most of us, I imagine, don't know all the struggles that faced our parents when they grew up. The world they grew up in, their own personal struggles, the sacrifices they made to give us what we have or the pains they had to go through.

There are two stories in the bible when women met with God at a well. They both have great lessons to teach us about wives and mothers, but also about their GOD.

WOMEN AT A WELL.

v8 The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. v9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, v10 and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac." v11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. v12 But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. v13 I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring." v14 Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba. v15 When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. v16 Then she went off and sat down nearby, about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there nearby, she began to sob. v17 God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. v18 Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation." v19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. v20 God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. v21 While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

Genesis 21:8-21

Jesus ... v5 ... came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. v6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. v7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" v8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) v9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) v10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." v11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? v12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" v13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, v14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." v15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." v16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." v17 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. v18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite

true." v19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. v20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." v21 Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. v22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. v23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. v24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." v25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." v26 Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he." John 4:1-26

1. They became MOTHERS through less than ideal Circumstances.

The story of Hagar's pregnancy is certainly not part of God's pattern set in Genesis 2. God's plan in *Gen 2:24* *"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh"* From the time of Creation till the time of Abraham, the picture of marriage in *Gen 2:24* had become quite confused.

The story is found in *Gen 16*. Sarai, Abraham's wife, could not bear Abraham any children. To provide Abraham with an heir, Sarai proposed that Abraham have a child with Hagar who was her maidservant. According to the laws of that time, the child would belong to Sarai, as slaves we considered as property.

While the plan seemed good in theory, in reality it was a disaster. Hagar, used her pregnancy to tease her mistress. Sarai complains to Abraham, who tells her to do what she wants. After being mistreated by Sarai, Hagar runs away.

The crucial part of the story is recorded in *Genesis 16:7-9* *The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. v8 And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered. v9 Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her."*

The story of the Samaritan women is no different. While there is no record of children in the passage in *John 4*, I think we can speculate that she was most likely a mother as well.

The crucial part of the story is recorded in *John 4:16-18. v16 He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." v17 "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. v18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."*

I think we can safely assume, that if you have had six husbands, with no effective birth control, you would have had at least one child.

WHAT ARE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR BIRTH? I discovered I was not originally planned. After my two older brothers and sister were born, my parents decided not to have any more children. My mother fell pregnant with an unplanned pregnancy which she lost. They then decided to have another child, so I was born. My mother always said, everybody should have four children, because the fourth is the best!!!!

2. **They BOTH faced REJECTION in a big way.**

Hagar was rejected by both Sarai and by Abraham.

The Samaritan women had been rejected by five husbands, and even by the society, as the time she came to draw water was at a time when most people would be home away from the hot sun.

BOTH WOMEN DISPLAYED DEEP SIGNS OF BEING HURT.

Hagar *Gen 16:4 When she (Hagar) knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.*

Gen 21:9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking

Both Hagar and Ishmael become SARCASTIC. The word for “DESPISE” means to belittle, and the word for “MOCKING” comes from the same base word for Isaac = LAUGHTER

The Samaritan women becomes critical. When Jesus talks to her she immediately goes on the attack. She attacks the beliefs of the Jews as opposed to the Samaritans. HURT PEOPLE WANT TO HURT OTHER PEOPLE!!!

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED THE PAINS OF YOUR MOTHER? I know my mother grew up in a very difficult home. I won't go into details, but it was a far from ideal upbringing. She never fully shared all the details with us as her children, only that she resolved to break the patterns that she had seen in her upbringing.

3. **They BOTH faced a CRISIS of FAITH in their lives.**

Hagar's crisis is found in *v14 Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba. v15 When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. v16 Then she went off and sat down nearby, about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there nearby, she began to sob.*

The Samaritan women's crisis is found in *v9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) v10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." v11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? v12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"*

For Hagar and the Samaritan Women the crisis was a lack of water!!!!

WHAT CRISIS OF FAITH PROMPTED YOUR PARENTS TO TRUST.

For my parents it was the loss of an unborn child. My parents had been raised NG. My older brothers and sister were “DONE” in the church. When my mother lost a child, the person who gave them hope was a Baptist Pastor, who had led my aunt to the Lord. They trusted in Jesus and were later baptised.

4. **God met them BOTH at their POINT of NEED.**

4.1 Hagar's encounter is found in *v17 God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. v18 Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation." v19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. v20 God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. v21 While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.*

- 4.1.1 **GOD HEARD THE CRY** - When we cry out to God he hears.
- 4.1.2 **GOD SPOKE INTO THE PAIN** - "DO NOT BE AFRAID."
Jesus often says; "FEAR NOT!"
- 4.1.3 **GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO HER** - GOD OPENED HER EYES. God reminded Hagar of what happened in **Genesis 16:13-14** *She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." v14 That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.*

4.2 The Samaritan women's encounter is found in *v15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." v21 Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. v22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. v23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. v24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." v25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." v26 Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."*

- 4.2.1 **JESUS HEARD THE CRY** - "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."
- 4.2.2 **JESUS SPOKE INTO THE PAIN** - 'v21 Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.'"
- 4.2.3 **JESUS REVEALS HIMSELF TO HER** –

v26 Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

GOD WANTS TO MEET YOU WHEREVER YOU ARE.
WILL YOU CRY OUT SO HE CAN REVEAL HIMSELF TO
YOU?