

**Series:** Beginnings, Betrayal, Blessings  
**Title:** Getting Ahead of God  
**Text:** Genesis 16:1-5

**One of life's most important lessons is to learn to listen to God.**

- If you do not listen you won't know what to do
- If you listen then you have to choose to obey or not obey

**It is not just listening to God but also to recognize that God's timing is always perfect.**

Gandalf

- In the *Lord of the Rings*, Gandalf says a, "A wizard is never late, nor is he early. He arrives precisely when he means to."
  - Sounds good but to everyone else, we wish he had shown up a little earlier.
- Of course we see that, from that perspective and ours, Gandalf is late most of the time throughout the trilogy.

**God is never late**

2 Peter 3:8 ESV

*But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

- If so, it would be hard to wait for a day
  - Our lifetime is an month 83 years
    - A week is 19.23 weeks
    - An hour is 2.7 years
    - A minute is eight hours
  - Lord could you give me a second of your time?

***There are basically 3 answers to prayer:***

- **Yes, no, and the toughest of these is wait.**
- It's great news when God says yes and gives us what we want.
- It's hard when we have to accept a negative response,
  - ...but at least the issue is settled.
- However, when God puts us "on hold", the waiting can seem intolerable.

Someone prayed, **“God, give me patience, and I want it right now!”**

- Many people miss His blessings because they do not wait on his timing
  - We don't listen not like His timing

People get in a hurry, they listen to the news and become frantic, and never stop and ask, GOD what is Your plan?

- Interest rates – BUY now, refinance now!
- Crime in area – MOVE NOW
- New manager I don't like – NEW Job Now

**Because of famine – They headed to Egypt - 12**

- While there... they gain a slave named Hagar

God had promised that Abraham would be Father of Many nations – 15

### **Genesis 16:1-5**

*Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. 2 And Sarai said to Abram, “Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. 3 So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. 4 And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. 5 And Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!”*

- Could not wait on God
- Abraham made mistakes
- He kept making mistakes
- Who gave Abraham the instruction?
- Doing it their own way
- Disobedience

Restless... Weary of waiting...This is probably how Abram and Sarah were feeling...which led them to carry out God's promise in their own way.

Sarah's proposal did not come from prayer or faith, but from her own mind as to HOW to make it happen.

### **God has a plan for your life**

- He knows you
- He has a plan for you
- What is best for you

### **Why does God wait?**

- He wants it to show as a miracle
- Credit

### **Examples**

House

Positions for career

Getting married – now later

- Do not get ahead of God because what others think.
- Wait for your spouse.
- Do not sleep with them until marriage.

Making a purchase

Deciding on a major in college

Choosing a field

Listening to God is the key part of Life.

You can wait...you do not want to wait.

- Are you asking God?
- For direction?
- For timing?

## **How Do We Get Ahead of God?**

We make decisions that please us in the moment.

Ask God what major you should have or what field you should pursue.

No degree will overcome your ignorance if you think you are smarter than God.

### **Listen to other people**

- Sarah presses for it.
- Is that what God said?

- Others and yourself

### **Deceived by appearance**

- I want to marry because they are attractive.
- That isn't the voice of God.

### **Impatience**

- I am 100 and Sarai is 90.
- I will wait but only for so long.
- You marry and experience turmoil and divorce.

### **Fear of failure**

- Other people
- If I don't do this I will miss out.
- You never miss out obeying God.
- He knows your future.
- He knows your weaknesses and what will make you stumble.
- When you submit... He will lead you to the right choices.

He will tell you the next step... not all the steps.

They fear they will fail if you do not do it now.

The issue is not your age it is your...

### **Unbelief**

- I do not believe God cares
- Or has a plan
- What do you believe?
  - Is it all up to you?

There is a penalty if we do not listen.

Sarah does not listen; she thinks the servant girl was the answer.

It looked like the simplest way.

You cannot tell by how many people agree.

## **The Cost of Getting Ahead of God**

### **Deny ourselves God's best**

- You can choose and get by for your whole life...

- But you missed God's best.
- We only have this one life.
- Why take a wrong turn?

### **Delay God's purpose for your life**

- A wrong turn will steer you away from His purpose.
- God gives second chances...multiple chances.
- Each time we take a wrong turn... we lose.

### **Disharmony**

- With God
- With others
- With yourself

### **Disappointments**

- Out of His will? You will be disappointed.
- It will let you down.
- Your finance does not mean God's will.
  - You have enough money and you can take care of your needs.
  - Success is not the indicator of God's will.
    - Does not mean you are in God's will.
    - Ask Him!

How do I know I can trust Him?

- He acts on behalf of the one who waits on Him.
- You do not trust him ... no guidance.
- No guidance if living in sin.

### **Defeat**

- God will not let your ways lead you in the right direction and there will be a sense of loss and defeat.
- It all falls apart.

How am I getting ahead of God?

- Will I be obedient to God or not?
- Will I follow His way and His Word?
- Am I going to choose the voice of God or the Voice of the world?

If I could speak to every person who has messed up your life:

- God will forgive you if you ask him and surrender your life to Jesus Christ.
- Some of you are into things that are wrecking your life.
- If you confess he is faithful and just and He will place you on the right path.

No one else can choose God's best for you.

If you are willing to listen:

- He can cleanse and forgive and lead you.

My prayer is that you will make the wise choice to change.

You will reap what you will sow.

What are you sowing?

- It will bear fruit...good or bad
- It will come in a season....
- Change the crop that will grow.

No matter your age... Change what you are sowing!

He acts on behalf of the one who waits on Him!

**PRAYER**