

JANUARY 24, 2021 / THE DIFFICULTY OF FAITH / GENESIS 16:1-16 TAKING THINGS INTO YOUR OWN HANDS WILL NEVER ACCOMPLISH WHAT YOU THINK IT WILL.

The great difficulty of faith is waiting on God; the great temptation in waiting is taking matters into our own hands. Faith is not easy, it calls for persistence, not common sense. It calls for a believing in gifts from God that are not a part of the world as we know it.

READ GENESIS 16:1-16

- 1. How significant is the influence of culture on your identity, on the way you see yourself? (see Ephesians 4:22-24)
- 2. Has delay in hearing from God on a promise or prayer ever negatively affected your view of God (Genesis 16:2)?
- 3. Have you ever tried to help God with a promise or an answer to one of your prayers? If so how did it turn out?
- 4. Why do you suppose God wanted Hagar to return to Sarai and Abram (Genesis 16:9, 13)?
- 5. Has God ever used something in your life to send a message to someone else?
- 6. How does the angel of the Lord (the presence of God here) change to outcome of this story?

God and Father help me to know that you hear me and see me always.