

The 3 Realities of God for a Women's Night of Worship



We are calling you to get lost in God's presence tonight. Leave behind the realities of this world in this moment and embrace the 3 realities of God:

*God Sees You
God Remembers You
God Understands You*

Hagar was a young woman. She was not only a slave, but a slave to her circumstances that were not of her choosing. She was in the hands of two people whom had a great vision from God. God had called Abraham and Sarah to a wonderful, yet unknown place that He had appointed especially for them. He had also promised to bless them with children, land, hope and everything one could dream of.

Hagar was just one girl among their many servants who no less heard the great stories of God's visitation on this chosen couple. These servants were to be the witnesses to God's unfolding promises.

But, the chosen couple grew tired of waiting for the promised child. This young girl was given to Abraham as a means for accomplishing God's will. No doubt confusion reigned in her mind. How could this great God who had promised them a child involve her?

Now pregnant she is scorned by the one whom had had this bright idea; scorned to the point of abuse. Tired of the vexation she runs for the desert. She feels hopeless, and escapes into a hopeless land.

There, an Angel of the Lord finds her. It is the Lord God! He encourages her and then sends her back to Sarah. Personally, I am sad for Hagar, but that is not Hagar's response; she is filled with hope because the Lord sees her!

She realizes that not only does God have plans for the chosen couple, but He also has plans for her! How could this be? She must wonder in her seeming insignificance. As a memorial she builds an altar and calls it... Beer Lahai Roi which means for I have seen the God who sees me!!!

No matter the pain and trials she may continue to suffer upon her return to Sarah, she is energized by God's apparent concern for her.

Dear sisters, please know that that same God sees you! And even if you are struggling with an ongoing vexation, know that the God who had plans for Hagar has plans for you.

God sees you!

(pause)

Hannah was a married woman dealing with infertility. She longed to hold a child of her own in her arms, but for whatever reason God had not opened her womb to conceive. Her husband's other wife, Peninnah, had had babies for her beloved husband, and she taunted Hannah relentlessly for being barren, adding great insult to injury. This pain was too much to bear.

While at the temple, Hannah prayed, NO, she cried out to God in great despair. Please give me a child, Lord! So desperate, she makes an extraordinary uncommon promise to God – She cries “God if you give me a child I will give him back to you”. And she is serious.

So distraught in her prayers that the Priest Eli thinks she is drunk and reprimands her. Here is this woman overcome in her grief and the very one designated by God to console His people is mocking her. How much more can Hannah take?

She tells the priest, *I was pouring out my soul to the Lord!*

After her return home, Hannah's husband made love to her and it is said that the Lord remembered Hannah.

Hannah conceived and gave birth to her son, Samuel. She gave him this name because she had asked the Lord for him.

Our wait may be long and painful, but don't forget that God remembers you, your need, and that very thing you have been longing for.

God will remember you.

(pause)

If only He had been there, her brother Lazarus, would not have died. Mary of Bethany, in full out mourning amidst her friends, rushes to the feet of Jesus when she hears that He has finally come. The scripture says that she throws herself down at his feet, exclaiming “if only you had been here” ..if only had been here..

When Jesus sees Mary's disappointment in Him and the extent of her grief, He is overcome. Jesus, too, then begins to weep.

Psalm 147:5 says *Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit!*

Jesus does identify with our pain, emotions and, yes, even our disappointments in Him. More than that He understands us far better than we even understand ourselves.

God's understanding has no limit.

These are words we can barely comprehend. We often go through life carrying regrets, missed opportunities, deep pains and woes and we try to tell our stories, explain our hurts, but few rarely and really understand.

They listen, sometimes, for a while, but we often still feel misunderstood. Even our closest confidants sometimes just don't get us...so who else can we go to?

(sing or read the following four lines)

*Where could I go oh where could I go
Seeking a refuge for my soul
Needing a friend to save me in the end
Where could I go but to the Lord*

God's understanding has no limits, and because His word says so, I say to you, God understands you.

As we sing our last song tonight, soak in these three realities whether by singing, praying or kneeling in silence:

God Sees You
God Remembers You
God Understands You

Amen.

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