

January 4, 2026

Pastor Andy McClellan

Title: “You Can’t ‘DIY’ God’s Promises”

Series: Genesis: Beginnings

Text: Genesis 16:1-16

1. Waiting on God means trusting His **TIMING** and His **WAY**, vv. 1-3 (*see also Gen. 3:6; 30:3, 9; Psalm 27:14; Lamentations 3:25; Romans 5:3-5; 8:24-25; Galatians 4:4; James 1:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9*).
2. Impatience with God leads to **CONFLICT** and **MISERY**, vv. 4–6, 12 (*see also Gen. 15:13-14; 37:25-28; Psalm 106:13-15; Gal. 4:29; 5:19-23; James 3:14-16*).
3. God **SEES** the miserable, and offers **MERCY** according to His Word, vv. 7–16 (*see also Gen. 3:9; 12:3; Exodus 3:7-8; Isaiah 30:18; Matthew 9:36; Gal. 4:22-28*).

FOR FURTHER STUDY & DISCUSSION

1. What kinds of things do you like to “DIY”? What won’t you even try to DIY because you know the work is beyond your ability? In Genesis 16, Abram and Sarai tried to DIY God’s promise to give them a miracle child. Why did they do it and what was wrong with what they did? What was the result, both in the immediate and distant future? How were their actions a failure to trust God and to understand their limitations?
2. When have you been a situation like Abram and Sarai, when you were waiting on a promise from God, got tired of waiting, and took things into your own hands? What was the result? What does it communicate to God when we try to help Him fulfill His promises to us? Why does it only lead to conflict and misery for us and others?
3. What are some promises from God that you are counting on in your life right now? For your future? We just finished a Christmas series that focused on the fulfillment of the promise to send Jesus “*in the fullness of time*.” Why is it important for our faith now and into the future, that we consistently remind ourselves of God’s faithfulness to His promises in the past? How does that help us to wait for God’s timing and God’s way?
4. Much like He did after Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden, after Hagar fled from Sarai, God sought out Hagar. While neither endorsing the sin involved, nor removing the consequences for the actions, what does His interaction with Hagar reveal about God’s heart toward those who are miserable because of sin? How is His promise to her and naming of Ishmael both an act of mercy and of faithfulness to His Word (see Gen. 12:1-3)?
5. How do people try to DIY their salvation, forgiveness from sin, and “ticket to heaven” today? Why are all of their DIY efforts futile? How is the Gospel truly good news for anyone who might be tempted to try to do it themselves? Who do you know who needs to hear this news? Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel with them this week.

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 17

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