

At the Well of the Living One who Sees Me (Genesis 16:6-15)

Bill Gaultiere ~ Lectio Divina Guides ~ SoulShepherding.org

Guidelines: Protect confidentiality and follow the leader's prompts

Lectio Divina Rhythms/Process (Repeat three times):

- (a) Read the Scripture passage ("Lectio")
- (b) Reflect on the focus question below ("Meditatio")
- (c) Respond in quiet prayer/journaling ("Oratio")
- (d) Rest in God's invitation for you then pray/share out loud if you want ("Contemplatio")

Introduction: Sometimes we all feel rejected and alone and it may seem that even God has abandoned us. That's how Hagar felt. She was the maidservant of Abraham and Sarah. She served them faithfully and now they were elderly. She kept hoping with them that God's promise to provide a miracle son would come true. Then Abraham and Sarah gave up waiting and decided for Abraham to have a son through Hagar. When Hagar becomes pregnant Sarah complains that Hagar was despising her so Abraham sends their maidservant out into the desert.

Now Hagar is alone in a desolate and dangerous wilderness. She's depressed and frightened. She sits down by a well and cries. Suddenly an angel visits her to say that God sees her and loves her. The angel encourages her that she'll be safe to return home if she submits to Sarah.

Opening Prayer: "My soul thirsts for [God]... in a dry and weary land" (Psalm 63:1).

Read Scripture: Genesis 16:6-15 (NIV84)

6 "Your servant is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

7 The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. 8 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.

9 Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." 10 The angel added, "I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count."

11 The angel of the LORD also said to her: "You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery. 12 He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

13 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." 14 That is why the well was called "Well of the Living One who sees me"; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.

15 So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne.

1st Reading: What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? Meditate on that.

2nd Reading: Enter into the Scripture passage. What do you feel? What specific situation in your life today relates? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

3rd Reading: What is God's personal invitation for you from the Scripture? You can write down what God may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or rest quietly in God.