

FALLING IN LOVE WITH JESUS 30 DAY CHALLENGE DAY 5

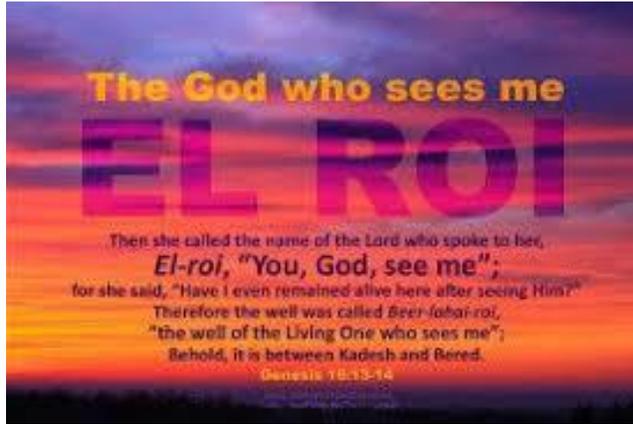
Good morning Beautiful & Mighty Women of God,

On this 5th Day of the Falling in Love with Jesus Challenge, how is it going? Are you actively participating? How have you experienced and/or expressed your love for God thus far?

Today, I am working from home, completing some long overdue staff file audits. I must admit, this is the very last thing on my priority list to do. But, as a result, it has caused me to "pause" and spend some additional time with the Lord this morning. As a result, I was reminded of Hagar and God's love for her. As I focused on Sis. Hagar's story, I was reminded that as God "saw" her, He also "sees me!" Oh, How He Loves Us!

For more of my reflections on Hagar and my love connection with the Lord on today, see the attached and enjoy. Feel free to comment.

Falling in Love with Jesus Again & Again,
Sis. Linda



Genesis 16:13-16 (NIV)

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 Beer Lahai Roi; 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. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him ***Ishmael***.

Definitions

Genesis 16:11 ***Ishmael*** means *God hears*.

Genesis 16:14 ***Beer Lahai Roi*** means *well of the Living One who sees me*.

In Genesis 16, we find the story of two women, Sarai (Sarah) the infertile wife and Hagar the fertile slave; Abraham has only a single sentence. In the course of the story, God intervenes directly on the side of Hagar, for she is otherwise without resources.

The Bible doesn't give us any information about Hagar's genealogy, although legend has tried to portray her as the daughter of Pharaoh, the King of Egypt. The legend also adds very colorful details of this story, but most scholars believe that she was simply an Egyptian slave girl whom Sarai secured for her household while she and Abram were in Egypt. If she was a slave girl, then her mistress was legally entitled to do as she pleased with her. Giving her to Abram was a custom consistent with the moral standard during the patriarchal times. Although it was legal, it was still not God's plan for them.

As the story continues, Hagar becomes pregnant after being given to Abraham, and because of it was banished from the home with no resources. But despite it all, Hagar has a beautiful and amazing encounter with the Lord. God loved her so much. He had

eyes for her in her pain and loneliness. He **SAW** her and made provision for her. During this encounter, Hagar decides to give God a name. The name she gives God, "El Roi," is a beautiful name, meaning **"You are the God Who Sees Me."** Hagar is the first person to whom the Angel of the Lord appeared; the first woman in the Bible to whom God directly made a promise, and she is the only person in the Old Testament to give God a new name. but Hagar decided to give God Himself a name. Jacob and Abraham name the *place* they saw God, but Hagar decided to give *God Himself* a name.

Hagar may have been cast out, forgotten, discarded and/or abandoned; and may even have been Sarai's PLAN B, but not God's! She showed an amazing amount of faith and trust in a God she wasn't raised to know. **And oh, how God loved her.**

"What did God do for this desperate woman? God gave her instructions. For her safety and well-being, God told Hagar to return to her mistress. In Abram's tent she would find food and water, shelter, and help during her pregnancy. God gave her encouragement. She would bear a son. All was not lost. However hopeless life looked, however hard life was right now, Hagar would one day have a son; a family. God gave her a promise. He would multiply her descendants. Yes, Hagar was a slave, but she would become the mother of many."

Elizabeth George writes in her book, *Women Who Loved God*. Using Hagar's story as the example, she writes: **Exactly what does God see?** He sees:

- *your affliction *your needs
- *your struggles *your mistreatment
- *your faithfulness

And how does God respond?

- *He is always at work *He is working out His purposes in your life
- *He provides for you *His help is on the way
- *He is moved with compassion

Oh, how He loves us! And He sees us! Hallelujah!

I pray this story reminds you that God is a very present help in times of trouble and that He "Sees" YOU! I pray that you will be reminded that He loves you dearly. I pray, it will cause you to love Him more and more; afresh and anew, as it did me. Blessings my Sisters.

