

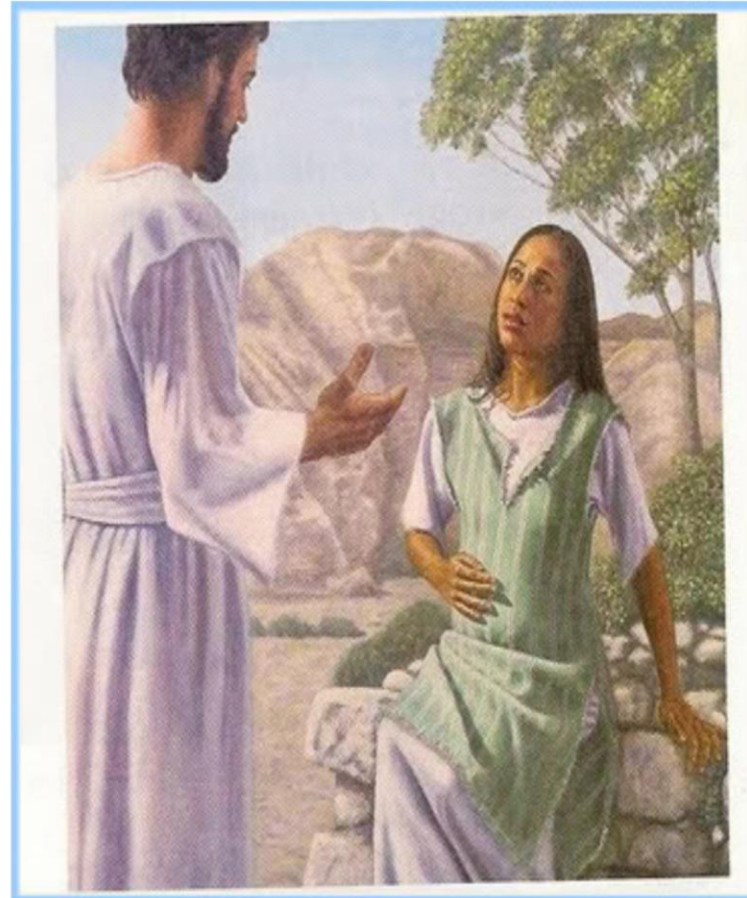
Sometimes people look at their situations and they think they know how to help God do things. They often get it wrong.

Sarai, Abram's wife, lived many years without having had children. She thought she was too old to have children herself. So, she asked Abram to marry a second wife to have children with. Sarai picked a lady that worked for her whose name was Hagar to be Abrams second wife. Abram married Hagar and soon she was pregnant.

After Hagar found she was pregnant, she started doing things to irritate Sarai. Sarai told Abram what had been happening. Abram said, "Do to her as you please." Sarai treated Hagar so mean that Hagar ran away. Now the Angel of the Lord found Hagar in the wilderness and asked her where she was coming from and where she was going, just to see if she would tell the truth.

Hagar said, "I am running away from Sarai."

The Angel of the Lord told Hagar to return to Sarai, say she was sorry and to do as Sarai said. Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall be counted for multitude."





And the Angel of the Lord said to her, "Behold, you are pregnant. You are going to have a boy. Name him Ishmael, because the Lord has heard your pain. He will grow up to be a wild man. He will dislike every man, and every man will dislike him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

Then she knew that the Angel was God. She said, "You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees." Then she asked, "Have I also seen Him who sees me?" So Hagar returned to Sarai and bore Abram a son. Abram named his son Ishmael, as Hagar asked. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar gave birth to Ishmael.

Remember this story because I'm going to ask you about it later.

