

## Unpacking the Word

For May 10, 2020 Mother's Day Sermon

Genesis 16:1-16

This message was about Hagar, Sarai's Egyptian Handmaiden, when she was shunned and ran away after Sarai got upset. Scripture says that Hagar, after she saw she was carrying Abram's child, instead of Sarai, became haughty and arrogant. Hagar was young and behaved badly. Even though it was Sarai's idea to give her to her husband (v.3), Hagar was still responsible for how she acted. She was not a "single mother," at that time, because she was married to Abram, along with Sarai. However, we see later (21:8ff) that Hagar and Ishmael were, indeed sent away. As before (16:7ff), an angel appeared (21:17) with help from God.

The **central feeling** in my heart for the message was for all mothers, but especially those not in "conventional" situations. According to *Statista*, in 2018, "there were about 4.04 million Black families in the United States with a single mother. This is an increase from 1990 levels, when there were about 3.4 million Black families with a single mother." There are roughly 14 million Black/African American households in the U.S.

Here is an excerpt of my manuscript...

***"I spend a lot of time talking about family. It's our vision - Rebuilding Families. And, I spend a lot of time preaching and teaching about men in the home and men being the priests of their home. I've spent time talking about how men should be men of integrity and about how, in most***

***cases, it requires a strong man to rear and raise a boy into a man, and I've preached and taught about how helpful it is for a girl's father to demonstrate consistency in her life.***

***But, on my mind, for some reason this mother's day weekend, is not only the conventional mother who is married to the father of all of her children, and they live together in the same home. On my mind this weekend is the mother who, for whatever reason, is single.***

***Perhaps she married the father of her children, or maybe she didn't. Perhaps she lives in a home with the father and they are not married and seen as one in God's sight. Perhaps, she is a widow. Perhaps, she is a divorcee. Perhaps, she has multiple kids from multiple fathers and maybe she lives with one of their fathers, or maybe not. Perhaps she is a mother who has kids but lives alone. Perhaps she as a mother has lost a child, or children, to sickness, to violence, or by some misfortune. Perhaps she wanted to be a biological or adoptive mother and things just haven't worked out as of yet. Perhaps. Perhaps. Perhaps" (J.Walton, 2020).***

Please listen to the message for how I fleshed out the points based on the scripture. It is a short message, but an important one, I think, as we continue to FOCUS on our VISION of rebuilding families.

Faithfully and Joyfully,

Pastor Walton