



CONNECT GROUP NOTES

Sunday 14.04.2024

“The God who sees me”

Preacher

Ps. Cameron Hall

Scriptures

“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.””

Genesis 16:13

Thought

As we journey through life, it is not uncommon to have seasons where we find ourselves in dark or uncertain moments. Times when we question whether God sees us, if there is still hope for us, or whether we have been forgotten.

The story of Hagar highlights such a moment. Hagar, fleeing through the wastelands, in a time of great uncertainty, tragedy and need, has a God-encounter whereby she sees the Lord and ascribes Him the name “El Roi” - the God who sees. Hagar had been treated unfairly, she had been burdened with carrying the weight of a promise that was not hers to bear. Yet she was not without blemish either, having treated others harshly herself. So it often is with our lives, we walk through a maze of our own failings and the unforeseen and undeserved impact of the actions of others.



And yet, in the midst of all of this, wherever we find ourselves - in a watchhouse, in our bed, in those frail moments of broken timidity, we encounter a God who sees us.

He sees us in the most personal form of the word, not just a distant observation as one who is uncaring, yet, intrigued by our plight - the God we serve sees us like a shepherd sees his sheep. He watches over us, He knows us by name, He calls us individually, and He searches endlessly for us if we wander off the path. He is the true Shepherd of our soul.

When we're the most vulnerable, the most fragile, the most forgotten, we have a God who sees. He sees us, He knows our journey, he knows every success and failure, he knows every joy and tear, and the beautiful promise of His word is that we are not forgotten. He is the one who leads us by still waters, makes us lay down in green pastures, He brings about the restoration of our soul and He, Himself, walks alongside us through the darkest of valleys. He is our leader, our comforter, our father, our friend.

Hagar needed a shepherd to see her and to bring her back, and God turned up for her, showing her His true nature, His good character in the midst of the pressures of life. Like Hagar, there are times when we, too, need the assurance of the God who sees. Those times where the troubles of life leave a void of uncertainty and fear in our hearts and we desperately need to know that we are still known, still loved, still walking a path of purpose and destiny with a future of promised hope.

God sees us. He is the God who sees *you*. He is the shepherd of your Soul and He meets you in your desert moment. He whispers "It's going to be alright", He tends to the ones who you care about, He provides for them, and He provides for you. He knows your every dream, your every desire, your every scar, He longs to restore your voice and song in the midst of chaos, and He has walked the road before you, and walks with you still.

It's not the end. You haven't walked out of the clutches of His limitless grace. He sees you now, and He wants you to know that He will never leave you nor forsake you. Right here, right now, in this place, in the absence of answers - *He is with you*.

Becoming Christlike

BEING, **THINKING**, AND DOING

Conviction of a Disciple: Secure in our identity in Christ.

Confident that God's grace is sufficient.

Thought

Christ doesn't promise a smooth journey. We're not immune from the fallout of sin - be it our own, or the impact of the fallen world around us. Yet in the midst of this, if we dare look to Him in the hour of our need, we'll see that He is, and always has been, looking toward us as a shepherd watches over His sheep. He truly sees us, and He longs to show us His true character - a character of love, of care, of commitment and eternal faithfulness.

Practice

Step 1 - **Reflect:** What stood out to me in this message?

Step 2: **Assess:** In what areas of my life do I feel I truly trust God, and in what areas do I have traces of distrust or mistrust? (eg. finances, relationships, health, family, career)

Step 3: **Act:** How might you take time this week to 'see' the God who sees you?

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you that You truly see me, at my best and worst, in my proud moments and failures, in my triumphs and in the lowest of places. Thank you that You journey with me, You've walked the path before me, and You never leave me. Grant me the strength to lift my eyes to You, to see the One who sees me, and to know the depth of Your presence and promise this week.

Amen.