

Unshakable Women's Bible Study

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4-Part Series — Seen & Strengthened: Becoming A Woman Established in God

Part 1 — The Woman God Sees

Genesis 16:1-14 — Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to bear children for him. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar. **2** So Sarai said to Abram, "The Lord has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her." And Abram agreed with Sarai's proposal. **3** So Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian servant and gave her to Abram as a wife. (This happened ten years after Abram had settled in the land of Canaan.) **4** So Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt. **5** Then Sarai said to Abram, "This is all your fault! I put my servant into your arms, but now that she's pregnant she treats me with contempt. The Lord will show who's wrong—you or me!" **6** Abram replied, "Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit." Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away. **7 The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur.** **8** The angel said to her, "Hagar, Sarai's servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress, Sarai," she replied. **9** The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority." **10** Then he added, "I will give you more descendants than you can count." **11** And the angel also said, "You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means 'God hears'), for the Lord has heard your cry of distress. **12** This son of yours will be a wild man, as untamed as a wild donkey! He will raise his fist against everyone, and everyone will be against him. Yes, he will live in open hostility against all his relatives." **13 Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, "You are the God who sees me."** She also said, "Have I truly seen the One who sees me?" **14** So that well was named Beer-lahai-roi (which means "well of the Living One who sees me"). It can still be found between Kadesh and Bered.

Proverbs 31:30 — Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised.

1 Samuel 2:1 — Then Hannah prayed: "My heart rejoices in the Lord! The Lord has made me strong. Now I have an answer for my enemies; I rejoice because you rescued me."

Key Verse for Part 1: "You are the God who sees me." — Genesis 16:13

Main Truth: Before I understand what God has called me to do, I need to understand how God sees me. Understanding Christ's identity in you is a mind transformer.

Key 1. God Sees You When People Overlook You

Hagar found herself in an incredibly difficult position. She was caught in circumstances she did not create by herself, mistreated by Sarai, and eventually fled into the wilderness. Have you ever felt like that?

Genesis 16:7 says: “The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness...”

Look at that wording: **He found her.** What do you think Hagar felt in that moment?? She felt forgotten and unseen, but Heaven knew exactly where she was.

There are seasons when you can be surrounded by people and still feel unseen. You can serve everyone around you and wonder whether anyone notices what it costs you. You can carry responsibilities that nobody applauds. How has that made you feel before?

But God doesn't just see what you're doing. **He sees you. He sees your heart.**

How important is your heart? Proverbs 4:23 says, “Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.”

The heart represents you as a person because that’s what God sees. Your heart is your inner character. Your heart is more than just a muscle.

He sees the woman behind the role:

He sees the wife.

He sees the mother.

He sees the daughter.

He sees the grandmother.

He sees the leader.

He sees the woman carrying something privately.

People are people. The Bible says in Colossians 3:13 to make room for others’ faults and forgive them. You have to set up a buffer for everyone. Being overlooked by people does not mean you have been overlooked by God. If we allow our heart to ‘stay’ hurt by human failures it can change you as a person. Read Mark 6:52 — I found this interesting:

Mark 6:52— for they still didn’t understand the significance of the miracle of the loaves. Their hearts were too hard to take it in.

*****A Strong Woman Does Not Need Constant Recognition**

A secure woman can celebrate someone else's success without feeling diminished. She can serve without needing credit. She can allow someone else to be noticed. She can obey God even when people misunderstand her. She can remain faithful when she feels invisible.

Why? Because she knows, like Hagar: I am not invisible. God sees me.

Recognition is nice, but it is not necessary for obedience.

Key 2. God Sees More Than Your Circumstances

Genesis 16:13 NLT — “Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, ‘You are the God who sees me.’”

Hagar's revelation wasn't simply, "God saw where I was." It was: God sees me.

That's personal— Also read verse 7: "The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur." He found you. You can't outrun the Lord and he sees you.

People often see circumstances before they see the person.

What do they see:

They see your position.

Your mistake.

Your struggle.

Your success.

Your family.

Your title.

But God sees the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7)

At times Proverbs 31 can feel overwhelming. We immediately begin measuring everything this woman "does"

She works.

She plans.

She gives.

She provides.

She prepares.

But truly Proverbs 31:30 brings everything back to the heart: "Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised."

When you fear the Lord it's total devotion, submission and inner awe of who he is. It's a representation of your heart.

To look at Proverbs 31 as a whole: Her greatest attribute was not productivity. It was her relationship with God.

Key 3. You Don't Have to Perform to Be Valuable

We live in that type of society. The measuring stick of life.

IMPORTANT TRUTH: There is a difference between **fruitfulness** and **performance**.

Performance says, "If I do enough, maybe I'll finally be enough." Thanks to social media, too.

Faith says, "Because I know who I am in God, I can faithfully do what he has placed in my hands." This is staying in your lane.

Proverbs 31 should inspire you, but it shouldn't become a measuring stick that leaves you feeling condemned.

Her works flowed from who she had become. Everyone will look and do different things.

God never asked you to prove your value. He asks you to live from the value he has already placed on your life. (Everything circles back to your In Christ identity)

Key 4. When You Know God Sees You, You Stop Living for Applause

A woman who knows that God sees her can serve when nobody claps. She can obey God when nobody understands. She can remain faithful when nobody notices.

You don't need everyone to recognize what God recognizes.

When you are unsure of your value, you often start looking to people to confirm it. How often have we thought like this?

We want someone to notice how much we do.

We want someone to acknowledge our sacrifice.

We want someone to say, "You're doing a great job."

We want someone to recognize the weight we are carrying.

There is nothing wrong with encouragement. We all need encouragement. But encouragement becomes dangerous when it turns into validation that we cannot live without.

Think of it this way: If you need applause in order to stay faithful, then people have too much control over your obedience.

*****Hagar Learned That God's Attention Was Enough**

Hagar was not standing in front of a crowd when she said: "You are the God who sees me." — Genesis 16:13 NLT

Where was she? She was in the wilderness. There was no one around her. No public recognition. But she still encountered God.

Sometimes some of the deepest things God develops in us happen in places where nobody else is watching. (A couple of examples: 1 Kings 19:9-18, Exodus 33:21-23)

Hidden seasons are not wasted seasons. God sees what is done in secret.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:4 AMP—"...your Father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you."

That is a powerful principle. People may never know every prayer you prayed. They may never know what it cost you to obey. They may never know the battles you fought privately. They may never know how many times you chose love when you could have chosen offense or physical harm. But God saw every one of them.

People see moments. God sees faithfulness.

FACT: People often see the finished product. God saw everything it took to get there.

People see the smile.

God saw the tears.

People see the strength.

God saw the moment you almost quit.

People see what you accomplished.

God saw every ordinary day when you kept showing up.

That is why we cannot measure the importance of our life by how much recognition we receive.

Heaven has a different measuring system. It says in Galatians 1:10: “Am I now trying to win the favor and approval of men, or of God?”

HEART CHECK: Who am I trying to please?

If your goal ends up always being to please people, you will eventually compromise what God is asking you to do.

FACT: Applause is unstable

People’s opinions can change quickly. Someone can celebrate you today and criticize you tomorrow. Have you ever experienced that?

Someone can understand you in one season and misunderstand you in another. If your confidence rises and falls according to people's opinions, then your peace will rise and fall with it.

(Not living for applause doesn’t mean we throw wisdom out the window. We are still open to receiving correction, accountability, and godly counsel)

In Proverbs 31, her life wasn't built around gaining attention. Her life was built around honoring God. And eventually, the fruit spoke.

That is important because sometimes we try to produce praise instead of producing fruit.

Don't chase the praise. Cultivate the fruit.

Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke told me once face to face. “If men's praise doesn’t build you up, then their criticism can’t tear you down”

If you remain faithful to God, you do not have to manipulate people into recognizing what he is doing in your life. You also don’t always have to explain the “yes” you gave the Lord. Let your character speak. Let your consistency speak. Let your faithfulness speak. Let your fruit speak.

There will be things God asks you to do that may never receive public recognition. Being faithful in your home. Praying for your family. Forgiving someone. Serving faithfully. Giving quietly. Keeping your heart right. Refusing bitterness. Choosing integrity. Staying consistent when nobody is watching.

These things may not get applause from people, but **they matter greatly to God.**

Colossians 3:23–24 AMP says: “Whatever you do [whatever your task may be], work from the soul [that is, put in your very best effort], as [something done] for the Lord and not for men, knowing [with all certainty] that it is from the Lord [not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [greatest] reward. It is the Lord Christ whom you [actually] serve.”

That changes everything:

I'm not doing this so someone will notice me.

I'm doing it because God entrusted it to me.

Weekly Declaration:

I am seen by God. I am known by God. I am valued by God. I will not measure my worth by the recognition of people. My confidence comes from knowing that the God who sees me is with me.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where are you most tempted to find your value today?
2. Have you ever experienced a season when you felt overlooked but later realized God had been working all along?
3. How does knowing God sees you change the way you serve others?

Heart Check Question: Would you still do what God asked you to do if nobody ever applauded you for it? Am I doing this because I love God? Or because I want people to recognize what I am doing?

Weekly Challenge: Do acts of obedience or service each week that nobody needs to know about. Don't search for praise. Let it remind you that being seen by God is enough.

Extra Verses for our Part 1 Series:

Psalm 139:1–3 AMP

“O Lord, You have searched me [thoroughly] and have known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up [my entire life, everything I do]; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and You are intimately acquainted with all my ways.”

—God doesn't just see you externally; He knows you completely.

Psalm 139:13–14 AMP

“For You formed my innermost parts; You knit me [together] in my mother's womb. I will give thanks and praise to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...”

—Your value began with God, our Creator!

1 Samuel 16:7 AMP

“But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’”

—People may measure appearance, accomplishment, status, or productivity, but God measures your heart.

Matthew 10:29–31 AMP

Jesus says that not even a sparrow falls apart from the Father’s knowledge, and that even the hairs of your head are numbered. He concludes, “So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.”

—God’s attention toward you is detailed and personal

Luke 12:6–7 AMP

“Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? Yet not one of them has [ever] been forgotten in the presence of God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not be afraid; you are far more valuable than many sparrows.”

If God has not forgotten the sparrow, He has certainly not forgotten you!

Isaiah 49:15–16 AMP

“Can a woman forget her nursing child... Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. Indeed, I have inscribed [a picture of] you on the palms of My hands...”

—God says, “I will not forget you.” Can’t get any better than what he says!

2 Chronicles 16:9 AMP

“For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth so that He may support those whose heart is completely His.”

—God sees you in order to strengthen and support you

Hebrews 4:13 AMP

“And not a creature exists that is concealed from His sight, but all things are open and exposed, and revealed to the eyes of Him with whom we have to give account.”

—Nothing about your life is hidden from God—not your tears, sacrifice, obedience, or private battles.

*******See you for Part 2- The Woman God Strengthens // September 29th @ 6:30p**