

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"Pilgrim's Regress"
Genesis 20:1-18
Study-44

John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" How About Abraham's "Pilgrim's Regress"

Genesis 18-21 Records Details of Abraham's Family:

Thought Of Our Passage: "People Of Faith Receive A New Nature But The Old Nature Is Ever Present Seeking Opportunity To Act Up"

- 1. Verses 1-2 Deception**
- 2. Verses 3-7 Disclosure**
- 3. Verses 8-13 Disgrace**
- 4. Verses 14-18 Deliverance**

1. Verses 1-2 Deception:

Genesis 20:1 Now Context – Genesis 19 the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the result of sin. God spared Lot's life because of Abraham's prayer **Genesis 19:29 Context - Reality of sin with the disobedient (Lot) and now sin of the obedient (Abraham) All sin!**

Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, Abraham left **(Mamre) Hebron – "Fellowship"**

Gerar – (40 miles southwest of **Mamre**) this is south to the border of the country, that became Philistine territory. (11 miles southeast of Gaza)

Genesis 20:2 Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." This sin, is the sin of unbelief that God cannot sustain/protect me in this new situation.

Abram – "exalted father" Abraham - "father of a multitude" The name change did not change his sinful nature. He was still a sinner.

Galatians 5:16-17

think more about ourselves than God, we are out of balance.

Proverbs 29:25

So Abimelech king of Gerar name **Abimelech – "father of a king"** this is a title, not his name; like Pharaoh, king of Egypt, President. Philistine king.

sent and took Sarah. (Sarah Could Be Pregnant With Isaac. Abrahamic Covenant At Risk The Messiah) took Sarah. Sarah is now 90 years old!

4 Observations About Abraham's Sin:

- 1. Abraham's Sin Was A Repeated Sin:** Abraham had committed a similar sin 24 years earlier. Beginning of his baby steps of faith; a famine and suffers a lapse of faith.

Genesis 12:11-13 Abraham's son Isaac repeats this same sin in the same place Genesis 26:6-11

Psalm 51:17; Hebrews 12:1 No sin is over until it has been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. **1 John 1:9**

2. Abraham's Sin Was Cowardly: He was afraid to stand in his convictions.

A true Christian is anything but weak!

3. Abraham's Sin Was Selfishness: Risk Sarah's honor by this foolish expediency. Abraham was only thinking of himself, not his wife or his family!

He should risk his own life for her. Instead, he was thinking of himself.

N.L.T. 1 Peter 3:7; Ephesians 5:25-30

4. Abraham's Sin Was Dishonoring To God: He was God's spokesman, a prophet, he spoke of God's promises and power. Abraham lied!

2 Samuel 12:14; 2 Timothy 2:15

2. Verses 3-7 Disclosure:

Genesis 20:3 But God Thank God for these interventions.

"Behold, you are a dead man Wouldn't that wake you up?

(Why A Dead Man?) because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married." 7th Commandment Exodus 20:14 "You shall not commit adultery."

Notice here what God thinks about adultery! Hebrews 13:4

Genesis 20:4 Now Abimelech had not come near her; This is amazing

and he said, "Lord, will You slay a nation, even though blameless?

Almost the same question of Abraham. **Genesis 18:23** God's justice!

Genesis 20:5 "Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' They both lied to me, their stories were consistent.

In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this." Here is a man that is not a believer, but he is a person of integrity.

Matthew 5:20 your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees,

Genesis 20:6 "Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, God knows the motives and the dealings of the heart.

and I also kept you from sinning against Me; Note, adultery is a sin against God.

therefore I did not let you touch her. God's keeping power! (**Covenant Jesus the Savior at stake**) God's judgment was on Abimelech, some sickness **Genesis 20:17**

Genesis 20:7 "Now therefore, restore the man's wife, She does not belong to you!

for he is a prophet 1st Time The Word Prophet Is Used In Scripture. "to speak for or behalf of, speak for God" What a shock this must have been.

and he will pray for you, and you will live. Notice the grace of God on the sin of Abraham and Sarah. Abraham does pray for him
Genesis 20:17-18

But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, You will be a dead man!

you and all who are yours." This judgment will extend to his whole family.

Notice how our sin will affect our household.

3. Verses 8-13 Disgrace:

Genesis 20:8 So Abimelech arose early in the morning Not much of a night's sleep.

and called all his servants and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were greatly frightened. Notice that these were God fearing people.

What a difference we see here from Sodom and Gomorrah.

Verses 9-10 - The Sinner Confronting The Saint: (Spanking)
Genesis 20:9

Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us?" Here was the man of God that was to bring blessing to the world now brings hardships!

And how have I sinned against you, (How have I offended you?)
This is a heathen speaking to the man of God!

Genesis 20:10 What was it that we did to you that has caused you to treat us this way?

Abraham Gives 3 Poor Excuses:

Genesis 20:11

Excuse #1 There Is No Fear Of God Here, So I Feared Man:
"Because I thought, surely there is no fear of God in this place; and they will kill me because of my wife. (Abraham Was Wrong)

Genesis 20:6 Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart

and they will kill me because of my wife. He feared man but no fear of God.

This is the root problem of this whole account! That Abraham did not have faith that God could protect him.

Excuse #2 A Half-Truth Equals A Whole Lie: Genesis 20:12 Abraham and Sarah had convinced themselves that they were not telling a lie. Only a “half-truth” (**Genesis 20:12**)

Excuse #3 We Have Been Telling The Lie For A Long Time: Genesis 20:13

Hebrews 3:13 so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

4. Verses 14-18 Deliverance: Genesis 20:14-16

a thousand pieces of silver; 50 was standard for a bride, 1000 for 20 brides
Genesis 20:17 God is so gracious to use sinners like me and you!

Genesis 20:18 James 5:16 prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

Application:

1. Believers Still Have The Old Sin Nature Dwelling In Us Even Though We Have Received A New Nature. We Need To Be On Guard.
2. Sins Can Be Repeated. Beware Of Pride And Arrogance Regarding Our Sin. We Must Forsake The Sins Of The Past.
3. Abraham Lost His Testimony, Almost Lost His Wife, And God’s Promised Son Through Whom Would Come The Messiah. God Still Loved Abraham. God Still Remains Faithful And Consistent Despite My Regress.