

February 18th

FAILURE FOLLOWS GOD'S MAN

"When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, 'I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake.'" GENESIS 12:11-14

God doesn't call the equipped...He equips the called. Ever heard that statement before? Have you ever used it before? Where does this come from? You won't see this statement in God's Word, but you can see its principle applied throughout the Bible. Men like Moses, David, and Peter come to mind because of grand failures in their lives. But God. God still uses these men and equips them to serve. This fact isn't just found with those heroes. Let's go back to the hero of every 1st Century Jew...Abraham.

Abraham's story is one of triumph...and one of epic failure. God has promised grand things to Abraham. The first part of chapter 12 gives three promises: great nation, great name, great blessing. What promises! But what we see just a few verses later is the pagan nature of Abram. You see, you can take the man out of pagan land, but you can't totally rid him of his pagan outlook. Did you notice two failures of Abram here in verses 10-20? That's right, there are two. Look again if you only see one. What are these failures?

Abram goes down to Egypt to sojourn there. That's mistake number one. How can this be a failure? He's the leader of the family...you go to where the food is. But God had promised to care for Him. He had promised to make a nation from him. But here we have Abram following his own pagan wisdom to distrust God's promise. You probably missed this distrust because it's what you and I would've done. If there's no food, you go where there is food. Many of us would say that's wisdom. But God. How God sees things aren't as man sees.

Mistake number two is obvious to us. Abram risks his wife's life to preserve his own. He instructs her to lie to Pharaoh. The simple step of obedience is completely undermined by Abram's distrust. His newly found God isn't big enough to protect him. Remember, when you read direct dialogue in an Old Testament story, you should take special notice. Moses includes the words of pagan Pharaoh here. The pagan rebukes the chosen!

There's hope for you here men. A man of great faith isn't different from you. It's not about your great faith...it's about your faithful God. Abram's actions don't undo God's grand promises. His actions can't undo God's work. Instead, God remains faithful and continues to change Abram. Remember, Abram's not done with his distrust. You just have to read more about him to see that. But God. God equips Abram with everything he needs...the promises of the faithful God. This is all you need men. God is enough for you!

Take time today to ask God to forgive you for trusting in your own strength and wisdom instead of trusting God's strength. Ask Him to help you trust in Him alone.

For Further Reading: Genesis 20:1-18