

Journeys OF Faith

The God of

Abraham • Isaac • Jacob

Journeys OF Faith

Not Again!

Genesis 20

Abraham travels South and West



"One great power of sin is that it blinds men so that they do not recognize its true character."

Andrew Murray

1 Now Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he sojourned in Gerar.

2 Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

Cunning 1,2

- Abraham on the move again – South
- Abraham in fear again – faith?
- Abraham lies again – faith?
- Abraham risks wife for life!

“We have a strange illusion that mere time cancels sin. But mere time does nothing either to the fact or to the guilt of a sin.”

C.S. Lewis

3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married."

4 Now Abimelech had not come near her;
and he said, "Lord, will You slay a nation,
even though blameless?"

5 Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this."

6 Then God said to him in the dream,
“Yes, I know that in the integrity of your
heart you have done this, and I also kept
you from sinning against Me; therefore
I did not let you touch her.

7 Now therefore, restore the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."

8 So Abimelech arose early in the morning and called all his servants and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were greatly frightened.

Consequences 3-8

- “be sure your sin will find you out!”
- “the guilty flee when no man pursues!”
- “the heart of the King is in the hand of the LORD”
- Consequence is a result of sin NOT judgment
- Judgment is coming too!

“Let us stop the progress of sin in our soul at the first stage, for the farther it goes the faster it will increase.”

Thomas Fuller

9 Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done.”

10 And Abimelech said to Abraham,
“What have you encountered, that you
have done this thing?”

11 Abraham said, “Because I thought, surely there is no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.

12 Besides, she actually is my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife;

13 and it came about, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said to her, 'This is the kindness which you will show to me: everywhere we go, say of me, "He is my brother."'"

Journeys OF Faith

14 Abimelech then took sheep and oxen and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and restored his wife Sarah to him.

15 Abimelech said, “Behold, my land is before you; settle wherever you please.”

16 To Sarah he said, “Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver; behold, it is your vindication before all who are with you, and before all men you are cleared.”

Confrontations 9-16

- Sin is never a solo event!
- How do you rationalize this?
- Fear – Failure – Fantasy – Fortune
- Some is true (1/2 sister) – but most recently my ‘wife’
- 2nd time Abraham profits – “You meant for evil...”

"A sin...consists in doing, saying, thinking, or imagining anything that is not in perfect conformity with the mind and law of God"

J. C. Ryle

16 To Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver; behold, it is your vindication before all who are with you, and before all men you are cleared."

17 Abraham prayed to God, and God healed
Abimelech and his wife and his maids,
so that they bore children.

18 For the LORD had closed fast all the wombs of the household of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Corrections 16-18

- God blessed Abraham
- God protected Abraham & Sarah
- God restored Abimelech's house
- God continues His covenant to Abraham
- There is a sin unto death...

“Let us stop the progress of sin in our soul at the first stage, for the farther it goes the faster it will increase.”

Thomas Fuller

Not Again!

- Most recognize sin – not that difficult!
- Most desire to avoid and abandon sin – results!
- Many make sincere attempts – 1st time success?
- "The more often he feels without acting, the less he will be able ever to act, and, in the long run, the less he will be able to feel." Screwtape – C.S. Lewis

"If you will not have death unto sin,
you shall have sin unto death. There is
no alternative. If you do not die to sin,
you shall die for sin. If you do not slay
sin, sin will slay you."

Charles Spurgeon