

ABRAHAM

Déjà Vu

Craig Smith • July 15, 2018

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty, walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.” (Gen. 17:1-2)

One of the greatest pains of following God is the reality of repeated sin...

Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar, and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, “She is my sister.” Then Abimelech king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her. (Gen. 20:1-2)

🔑 **Broken places within us can lead to broken people around us** – “...I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do...So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.” (Rom. 7:14b-15, 21)

Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Rom. 7:24b-25)

- **While we are marked by failure, God is marked by faithfulness** – “But God came to Abimelech in a dream one night and said to him, ‘You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman.’ Now Abimelech had not gone near her, so he said, ‘Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation? (cont.)

- (cont.) *Did he not say to me, “She is my sister,” and didn’t she also say, “He is my brother”? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands.’ Then God said to him in the dream, ‘Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her.’ ” (Gen. 20:3-6)*

Then Abimelech called Abraham in and said, “What have you done to us? How have I wronged you that you have brought such great guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that should not be done...What was your reason for doing this?” (Gen. 20:9-10)

☀️ **Self-love often leads to self-justification** – “Abraham replied, ‘I said to myself, “There is surely no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.” Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife. And when God had me wander from my father’s household, I said to her, “This is how you can show your love to me: Everywhere we go, say of me, ‘He is my brother.’ ” ’ ” (Gen. 20:11-13)

- **Despite the worst in me, God still uses the best of me** – “Now return the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live...Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife and his slave girls so they could have children again, for the LORD had closed up every womb in Abimelech’s household because of Abraham’s wife Sarah.” (Gen. 20:7, 17-18)

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect. (1 Cor. 15:10)