



The “What ifs” of Doubt Genesis 12:10-20

What if doubt is a normal part of faith?

Verses 10-15:

Text Message:

- *What if doubt isn't something to hide or be ashamed of?*
- Three significant areas of doubt:
 - 1) Theology, or doubts related to the character of God.

2) Theodicy, or doubts related to the justice of God.

3) Theophany, or doubts about our experiences of God.

○ Genesis 12 can be split in half; in the first part we see the incredible faith of Abram (Verses 1-9), in the second part we see the doubt of Abram (Verses 10-20).

○ *What if Abram's doubt is seen here not as a criticism of Abram, but as part of his faith journey?*

○ The root of Abram's doubt is the root of our doubts: the inability to see/know the bigger picture:

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

1 Corinthians 13:12

○ Therefore, Abram's doubt is understandable. In the ancient world, gods were regional and geographical. God may protect him on his journey to Canaan, but is God the God of Egypt?

What if doubt can be a bridge to faith and blessing?

Verse 16:

Text Message:

- Let's look at Abram's doubts.

God said:	Abram said:
I will make you a great nation. . .	They will kill me. . .
I will bless you. . .	That it may go well with me because of you (Sarai). . .

- God had promised blessing, yet Abram experienced a famine! *A spiritual famine cannot negate what God has said!*
- What is faulty in Abram's doubt is he assumes he will be killed if he tells the truth but spared if he lies!
- To be caught in a lie (and he was!) could've

resulted in the death penalty by the Pharaoh anyway!

- What we don't see in the story is God interfering in Abram's doubt yet blessing him despite it!
- In other words, in his doubt Abram is not chastised or punished but protected and provided for!

What if God is at work in your doubt?

Verses 17-20:

Text Message:

- What we see here is that doubt is not the end of the story when God writes your story!
- Abram may be dealing with God's silence and a severe famine, but that doesn't mean God isn't powerfully at work!
- We see that despite Abram's doubt:
 - 1) God provided great wealth for Abram; a foreshadowing of the exodus from Egypt centuries later.
 - 2) God protected Abram (and Sarai).

- Like Abram, doubt can lead us to deconstruct our faith and construct it into something greater! Abram would learn that God is not only the God on the way to Canaan, but Egypt as well (a lesson later learned by the Exodus Israelites!).

Which of the three areas of doubt hit home most, and what will you take away from this message today?

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