

ONGOING SINFUL CHOICES ~ Genesis 20:1-18

→ Scripture Reading Genesis 12:1-4, 15:4-6

INTRODUCTION

ABRAHAM WAS...

75 - when he BELIEVED God's Promises and left Haran

78 - when he WENT to Egypt

99 - when God told Sarah she would HAVE A SON

God has CONFIRMED His Promises - Gen. 13:15, 15:18, 16:15-16, 18:10

Genesis 18:14 (NIV) Is ANYTHING too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son."

HERE WE GO AGAIN? ~ Genesis 20:1-7

[1] 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,

→Map

[2] and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." Then Abimelech king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her. [3] 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." [4] Now Abimelech had not gone near her, so he said, "Lord, will you destroy an INNOCENT nation? [5] 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." [6] 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. [7] Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all yours will die."

APPLICATION

Hungry -

Angry -

Lonely -

Tired -

Light hearted **ADMISSION of sin is not the same as BROKENHEARTED confession of sin.** Wiersbe

RESPONDING TO SIN Wiersbe

- HATE our sin
- be BROKEN by our sin
- DESPISE the memory of it
- CONFESS take the sin to God
- REJOICE in God's Forgiveness

Isaiah 30:15 (NIV) This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In REPENTANCE and REST is your salvation, in QUIETNESS and TRUST is your strength, but you would have none of it.

OVERCOMING ONGOING SINFUL CHOICES...

- Seek God's Help BEFORE
- PLAN Ahead
- MEMORIZE a Helpful verses - 2 Cor. 4:2
- TRUST God for the Victory - 1 Cor. 10:13

EXCUSES AND FEARS ~ Genesis 20:8-13

[8] Early the next morning Abimelech summoned all his officials, and when he told them all that had happened, they were very much afraid. [9] 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." [10] And Abimelech asked Abraham, "What was your reason for doing this?" [11] 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.' [12] Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife. [13] 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.'"

ABRAHAM'S SIN...

- RISKED Sarah's honor
- ENDANGERED the PROMISE of an heir
- DISHONORED God
- was an sinful CHOICE

APPLICATION

FEAR of man and FAITH in God cannot dwell together in the same heart. Wiersbe

Genesis 15:1 (NIV) After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "**Do not be AFRAID, Abram. I am your SHIELD, your very great REWARD.**"

Isaiah 43:1-3 (NIV) But now, this is what the LORD says - he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "**FEAR NOT**, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; **YOU ARE MINE.** [2] When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. [3] **For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...**

GOD SAYS FEAR NOT

- You are MINE
- I WILL be WITH you
- I AM the Lord YOUR God

THE PRAYER OF ABRAHAM THE PROPHET ~ Genesis 20:14-18

[14] Then Abimelech brought sheep and cattle and male and female slaves and gave them to Abraham, and he returned Sarah his wife to him. [15] And Abimelech said, "My land is before you; live wherever you like." [16] To Sarah he said, "I am giving your brother a thousand shekels of silver. This is to cover the offense against you before all who are with you; you are completely vindicated." [17] Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife and his slave girls so they could have children again, [18] for the LORD had closed up every womb in Abimelech's household because of Abraham's wife Sarah.

TAKE AWAY ??

God was FAITHFUL even when Abraham was FAITHLESS

Romans 6:1-2 (NLT) ...should we KEEP ON SINNING so that God can **show us more** and more of his wonderful GRACE? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?

Titus 2:11-14 (NIV) For the **GRACE** of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. [12] It teaches us to **say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions**, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, [13] while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, [14] who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to PURIFY for himself a people that are his very own, EAGER to do what is GOOD.

God can achieve HIS purpose either through the ABSENCE of human power and resources, or the abandonment of RELIANCE on them. All through history God has chosen and used nobodies, because their unusual **DEPENDENCE ON HIM** made possible the unique display of His power and grace. He chose and used somebodies only when they RENOUNCED DEPENDENCE on their natural abilities and resources. O. Chambers