

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
SEPTEMBER 21, 2022
GENESIS 20:1-18

INTRODUCTION:

1. After the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, our attention is directed back to Abraham.
 - a) **GENESIS 20.1:** “*And Abraham journeyed from there to the south*” This was part of the land of Canaan. (Gen. 13.18; 18.1; 10.19; 20.11)
 - b) **GENESIS 20.2:** “*Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, ‘She is my sister.’*” (Gen. 12.11-13)
 - c) **GENESIS 20.2:** “*And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.*” (cf. Gen. 26.1,6,7)
2. Even the best of us make mistakes. (James 2.23; Acts 13.22)
3. This account captures the character of God considering our mistakes.

I. GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO ABIMELECH

- A. In a dream, God warns Abimelech of impending judgment.
 1. God threatens Abimelech. **GENESIS 20.3:** “*Indeed you are a dead man.*” Why?
 - a) Abimelech did not sin willfully but acted on faulty information. (Gen.12.4,5)
 - b) “Integrity” (tom): “blamelessness, innocence.” Heart: In reference to how he felt.
 - c) “Innocence” (niq-yon): “cleanness, purity” Hands: In reference to what he did.
 2. God protects Abimelech.
 - a) God prevented Abimelech from sinning. (Gen. 20.6, with v. 4,17,18)
 - b) God shows mercy by offering a way of escape. (Gen. 20.7)
- B. God reveals Himself to us through scripture. (Heb. 1.1,2; John 16.12-15)
 1. Through Scripture, we are warned. (John 16.8-11; Acts 24.25; Matt. 25.31-33)
 - a) There is no justification for good intentions. (Prov. 14.12; Acts 23.1; 1 Cor. 4.4)
 - b) Those who acted on faulty information will be lost. (Acts 20.30; 2 Tim. 17.18)
 2. Through Scripture, we are protected.
 - a) God does not want to see the wicked perish. (Ezek. 33.11; 2 Cor. 5.20; 2 Pet. 3.9)
 - b) God shows mercy by revealing how to escape punishment. (Rom. 1.16; Acts 26.18)

II. ABIMELECH REBUKES ABRAHAM AND SARAH

- A. Abimelech confronts Abraham and Sarah. (Gen. 20.8-13)
 1. Abimelech “*rose early in the morning*” (Gen. 20.8).
 2. Sinning against another can be an act of vengeance. **GENESIS 20.9:** “*How have I offended you?*” (cf. Rom. 12.17-21; 1 Pet. 2.21-23)
 3. Sinning against another can be an act of negligence. **GENESIS 20.9:** “*You have done deeds to me that ought not to be done.*” Did Abraham consider the consequences?
 4. Sinning against another is an act of selfishness. **GENESIS 20.9:** “*What did you have in view, that you have done this thing?*” (cf. Rom. 13.8-10)
- B. Abraham explains his actions.
 1. Mistake #1: Abraham used human reasoning. **GENESIS 20.11:** “*Because I thought...*”
 - a) Human reasoning has been the cause of many problems. (Mark 2.8)
 - b) Did Abraham already forget about Egypt? (cf. Matt. 16.5-12)
 - c) **PROVERBS 18.13:** “*He who answers a matter before he hears it...*”
 2. Mistake #2: Abraham told a half-truth. **GENESIS 20.12:** “*She is truly my sister.*”
 - a) Any attempt to deceive is sin...even if what we say is true. (Acts 5.1-4)
 - b) **REVELATION 20.8:** “*all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire.*”
 3. Mistake #3: Abraham involved his wife in his deception. **GENESIS 20.13:** “*In every place, wherever we go, say of me, ‘He is my brother’*”
 - a) There is no victimless sin. Every sin affects others. (Gal. 2.11-13; 3.1)
 - b) **PHILIPPIANS 2.14:** “*that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault...among whom you shine as lights in the world*”