

Genesis 20 - Amazing Grace

Message by Brother Isaac

Genesis 20 is a confusing, uncomfortable story for any child of God to read. In many ways, we could wish it weren't included. We would prefer our Bible "heroes" to actually be heroic, instead of fearful, self-serving and deceitful. But stories like this are essential to fully grasping both the depth of sinfulness and the glory of grace in Jesus Christ.

Confounding Narrative

1. Abraham gives up his wife for the second time to preserve his own life.

2. As a result, Abimelech's life, not Abraham's, was in jeopardy.
3. God rescues Sarah by restraining and revealing the truth to Abimelech.
4. Abraham offers a feeble explanation.
5. Abraham is given great gifts by Abimelech.
6. Abimelech is healed through Abraham's prayer.

Big Picture

1. Covenant Faithfulness

1. God's covenant with Abraham was a promise - Galatians 3:18

2. The covenant would ultimately be fulfilled in the New Covenant by Jesus Christ - Galatians 4:1-6
 3. God's mercy to Abraham was God's commitment to His covenant to bring forth Jesus.
 4. God's mercy to Abraham is God's mercy to you.
2. **Salvation is of the Lord**
1. Sovereign Election - Why would God choose Abraham?
 2. Justifying Righteousness
 1. Is in Christ Alone - Romans 3:23-26
 2. Is found in faith, not in works, that it might be by grace - Romans 4:16

3. As a result of Christ's work, we have a perfect righteousness.
4. Psalm 105:1-15 God does not allow the king to touch His anointed because they are kept in Christ.

3. **Sovereignty**

1. A Dream and a plague stop Abimelech and preserve the line of Christ

4. **God takes marriage seriously.**

Individual Application

1. **Abraham's dim view of God**

1. His fear of man obscured his view of God.
2. Abide in Christ - John 15

2. **Abraham's heightened view of self**
 1. Righteous people can act so unrighteously
 2. The depth of our sinfulness is measured by affection for self.
3. **Righteous people really are righteous and are called to do righteous deeds.**
 1. God gives Abraham blessings through Abimelech, even though he hasn't earned them.

God uses the broken instrument of Abraham's intercession to heal Abimelech