

Genesis 20

Righteousness Honored

The problem with Sarah ...

- I. Abimelech Woken Up
 - A. Entitlement
 - B. Sleeper Awake
 - C. Reasonable Response
- II. Abraham Called Out
 - A. Rebuked By the Unrighteous
 - B. Lame Excuses
 - C. Overabundant Restitution
 - D. Sarah Vindicated
 - E. God's Man Humbled
- III. Some Lessons Learned
 - A. About Sin
 - B. About Grace
 - C. About Growth

... in light of God's promises.

Children, Listen ...

1. Who did Abimelech think Sarah was?
2. How did God stop him from taking her as his wife?
3. Who pointed out Abraham's sin to him?
4. Do you think that helped Abraham?
5. Did Abraham need to grow in faith even though he was almost 100!?

Really Abraham?

With all due respect to Father Abraham, it is hard to believe he pulled the same trick twice. As Yogi Berra would say, "it's dejavu all over again" when the patriarch is willing to pass off his apparently stunning, aged wife as his sister [As he had done previously with Pharaoh]. Of course he thought it was a reasonable solution to a potentially big problem but the duped ruler Abimelech was not amused, especially when God revealed to him how dangerously close to devastation he was. When the pagan confronts the man of God it is one of those awkward moments that you may have experienced if your sinful behavior has ever been called out by an unbeliever. God works that way sometimes in order to bring us to a more humble position before Him and man. Abraham needed to see how he needed to trust God to care for him and his family, but also he needed to know that without God's help he was prone to repeat old sin patterns. This strange incident was no doubt a learning experience for Abraham. He also needed to see that in and of himself he was not better than Abimelech in and of himself and that he let both God and his wife down in this situation. Maybe Abraham should have confessed his shortcomings rather than make excuses (we can learn from his neglect). Whatever the case be sure of this – the father of our faith grew through this. The gifts he received from Abimelech may have been generous, but the lessons he learned thought his sin, a pagan's rebuke and God's mercy was priceless.