

Deja Vu

Genesis 20:1-18

Introduction

I The Recycled Lie

- A. Abraham and Sarah **moved** to Gerar - Prov 16:25
- B. Abraham **lied** about his relationship to Sarah - Lev 19:11

II The Recycled Danger

- A. Abimelech sent for Sarah and took her - Gen 12:15
- B. God **warns** Abimelech in a dream
 - 1. “You are as good as **dead**” - Heb 13:4; Prov 6:27-29
- C. Abimelech’s objection:
 - 1. “Lord, will you **destroy** an innocent nation?” - Gen 18:23
 - 2. “I have a clear conscience and clean hands” - Lev 4:1-2
- D. God’s favor extended
 - 1. “I know you did this with a clear conscience”
 - 2. “I **kept** you from sinning against me” - Ps119:9,11; Jd 24
 - 3. “Return Abraham’s wife”
 - a. “He is a **prophet** and he will pray for you” - Jam 5:14ff
- E. God’s severe warning
 - 1. “If you do not return her you will **die**” - Ezek 18:30-32

III The Recycled Rebuke

- A. Abimelech summoned all his officials the next morning
 - 1. He told them everything and they were afraid
- B. Abimelech **confronted** Abraham:
 - 1. “What have you done to us?”
 - 2. “How have we **wronged** you that you have brought:
 - a. Such great guilt upon my kingdom - Gen 26:10
 - 3. “You have done things to me that should not be done!”
 - 4. “What was your **reason** for doing this?” - Lk 17:1-3

IV The Recycled Excuse

- A. Abraham **justified** his deception
 - 1. He assumes a lack of fear of God in Gerar - Prov 29:25
 - 2. He justifies his lie about Sarah - Prov 28:13
 - 3. He blames God for his vulnerable condition - Prov 19:3

- B. Abraham **pressured** Sarah into his deception:
 - 1. If you really love me, say I am your brother

V The Recycled Restoration

- A. Abimelech **gave** sheep, cattle and slaves to Abraham
- B. Abimelech **returned** Sarah to Abraham - Ezek 33:14-16
- C. Abimelech opened his land to Abraham - Gen 13:8-9
- D. Abimelech affirmed Sarah’s purity
 - 1. He gave Abraham 1,000 shekels of silver
 - 2. He completely **vindicated** Sarah

VI The Recycled Mediation

- A. Abraham **prayed** to God for Abimelech - Matt 5:43-45
- B. God **healed** Abimelech, his wife and slave girls

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Share a time when you experienced “déjà vu”.
2. What is Abraham’s basic spiritual problem in Genesis 20? In what areas of your life do you have repeated downfalls? Why?
3. Is there an area in your life, like Abraham, where you are failing to trust God and are taking matters into your own hands? What do you think God wants you to do? Are you willing?
4. What impact did Abraham’s lie have on himself, his wife and those around him? Are there any sins in your life that you are you trying to justify? What is it costing you? Others?
5. How do you respond when you are caught in a sin? 1) Denial? 2) Blaming? 3) Confession and repentance? [Read Prov 28:13]
6. What observations can you make regarding God’s attitude and heart in how he deals with Abraham? Sarah? Abimelech?
7. Who has been an “Abimelech” for you -- someone who has had the courage to confront you with the truth about your sin? Have you thanked that person lately? Why not do it this week?

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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