

THE LIFE OF ABARAHAM

2. Abraham's Mistake & Recommitment

(Leader's Notes)



Introduction

As we have seen, Abraham was known as the 'father of our faith', and he was also called a 'friend of God'. However that did not mean Abraham made any mistakes in his life. He did! What made him great was not that he never failed, for we all do, but rather than he returned to the Lord and continued his journey of faith. We need to learn to do the same in our lives.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 12:10 – 13:4

A. ABRAHAM'S MISTAKE

- ✧ Why did Abraham go down to Egypt? V10
(He went down to Egypt because there was a severe famine in the land.)

- ✧ We don't know whether it was God's will or not for Abraham to go down to Egypt, however what danger and temptation did Abraham face there? V11-15
(When Abraham realized others would see how beautiful his wife was he told a lie to protect himself. Even though she was 65 years old at that time, Sarah was beautiful and very fair. He tells Sarah to say she was his sister. In fact Sarah was his half-sister as we see in Genesis 20:12. However from the story it is clear that God considers a half-truth a lie.)



Abraham's mistake is a common one. There are times when people tell half-truths to protect themselves. Why is this wrong? Why is truth so important? *(God is truth, Jesus is the Truth, and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. Whenever we give a wrong impression by telling part of the truth we are being deceptive, and this is sin. We are on the side of the devil! This is what Satan did when he spoke to Eve in the Garden of Eden.)*

B. ABRAHAM'S RECOMMITMENT

- ✧ How does God intervene to prevent further wrong doing? V17-19
(God inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household.)

- ✧ In what way does God show his faithfulness to Abraham at this time, and why does he? Genesis 13:2-3
(God shows his faithfulness by sending diseases on Pharaoh and his household, so Sarai is protected. This shows the grace of God towards Abraham despite his mistake. God is faithful to his promises!)

- ✧ No doubt Abraham felt embarrassed and ashamed of what he had done. How did he respond to the Lord at that time? Genesis 13:3-4

(Abraham went back to the place where he had previously built an altar, and there he called on the name of the Lord.)



Have there been times in your life when you have made mistakes, yet you have seen God graciously preventing you from going further? What other lessons can you learn from this story?

Conclusion

We have all made mistakes. Even the great men of God like Abraham have! How wonderful that we can come back to the Lord, as Abraham did, and receive his forgiveness and restoration. We too can be known as a 'friend of God.'