

Title: Are You Really Trusting God?

Text: Genesis 12:10-13:4

Take your Bibles and turn with me to Genesis chapter 12. We want to begin where we left off last Sunday. Genesis chapter 12 beginning with Vs 10.....

By the way, you will find notes in your bulletin. And I hope that you will use them so that you might be more familiar with the message when you leave this morning. We remember so little of what we hear. We remember less than 10% of what we hear. So, that is why it is very important to participate in note taking. It causes us to remember more of what is being taught...

Genesis chapter 12 verse 10...(Read 12:10-13:4)

Prayer

Last Sunday morning, we learned something about the FAITH OF ABRAHAM. Simply we learned three things about Faith. We learned that FAITH, our Faith, ^{also} depends upon three things.

(1) Number one, Faith depends upon participation in what God tell us to do.

^{we} You can't say ^{we} you have faith, and then set back as a spectator. Faith results in participation.

(2) Secondly, faith results in perseverance in the face of opposition.

Like Job, when things do not go our way, we will say, "Even though he slay me, yet, will I trust him.

(3) And third, faith depends upon the very presence of the Lord. And in the case of Abraham, we saw this in the altar he built at Shek' ham. ^And the altar he built between Bethel and Ai.

So, because of these three factors, we say that Abraham was a man of great faith. But was he?

You know, I don't think Abraham was any different than ~~you~~ and I. ^{Anyone here in This Room} I think at times he exercised great faith. And so do ^{we} you. And there are those times - oh so often - when Abraham had a hard time believing God. And there are times when we, also, have a hard time believing God....

Now, let me try and put Abraham's life into perspective for you. His whole life depended upon three things....

(1) Number one, it depended upon a land that God was going to show him. And the whole history of the Jewish people from Abrham down to the present depends upon the land that God promised to Abraham.

(2) Secondly, it depended upon his descendents. He had to have a son in order for the promise to be fulfilled.

(3) And third, it depended upon the promise of blessing that God gave to him.

Now, dear friends, Abrham's whole life hung on those three things. And you know, it is fascinating to me, that God tested him in all three areas.

In the case of the land, do you remember from last week, Abraham had the Canaanites to worry about.

I can just see Abraham as he came into the land that God had promised him "Boy! Wow! This is great. Free land for the taking. It is all mine"..

But it wasn't that way...The canaanites were there. And God tested him in regards to the land. And He tested the whole nation throughout its history in regards to that land. Someone was always trying to take it away from them. And that is even true today....

(2) Secondly, his descendents. You must jump ahead a little bit in the story. But, I am sure you know the circumstance surrendering Sarah, Abrhaam's wife. She had no children. And now she is 90 years old and far beyond the age of producing children. And yet, Abraham knew that he had to have children if the promise of God was to be fulfilled. And let me tell you, was he tested in this area...

(3) And third, in relation to the promise of Blessing, God said to him, "I will bless you." Everything your heart desires I will give to you. And then God tested Abrham with a famiine...

They came into the land that God had promised him. And Vs 10 says ... "There was a famine in the land; so Abraham went down to Egypt." I will bless you....And then a test....And Abraham ran down to Egypt.....

And you know, this isn't much different from our lives. God is going to test us in areas in which we think we have it all wiped up. God is going to really bless us now. And then God will move in and test your life. And the Lord is showing you his love because the Bible says that the Lord loves those whom he disciplines. And ~~out~~^{out} of the 15 different reasons for testing in the Bible many ~~times~~ times we forget that God is going to do something in our lives through testing.

(7C)

Vs 10-13:2

And so here we see Abraham, who just demonstrated his faith, ~~in~~^{now he} ~~movement of testing weakness.~~ ^{demonstrated a true weakness of the flesh} There are just two things concerning the failure of Abarham that I want you to see. The failure that happened in Abraham's life resulted from two things. And they may be the same ~~kin~~^{kind} kind of things which ~~are~~^{are} causing failure in ~~our~~^{our} your life.

(1D) The ~~place~~^{First} place is the place where he went for help, was wrong. The place to which he went for help was wrong. He went to Egypt. God told him the land was his. And God tested him ^{With a Famine} So, the first thing he did with this test was to leave and go somewhere to get ~~help~~^{help}. But remember the help was at the place of strength. The help was there at the altar. The help is when you call upon the name of the Lord. When he got tested he couldn't take it. So he decided to go to Egypt instead of trusting the Lord. I wonder how often we do that. We know we should trust the Lord.

But a little test comes along and what do we do?. We go to the wrong place for help. We will go anywhere, but th the Lord. ^{OR we do everything but follow the principles of Scripture}

Now, God will use other people and other things to help us. But, that is not the issue. We are discussing one issue: ARE YOU REALLY TRUSTING GOD.

So, Abraham goes to Egypt and the trouble he got into is fantastic. It is fantastic when you realize that this is the man that ^{the Bible} God called. The great friend of God, who had a heart after the Lord. And now he is down in Egypt in disobedience and in deep trouble.

(2D) The second thing I notice about his failure is that it resulted from a plan that he had formed to save himself. ^{I do like this. This is my problem,}

And Abraham is just like a lot of us. We ~~add~~ decide that we

And Abraham is just like a lot of us. We decide that we can get ourselves out of the trouble we have cause. We have a plan to save ourselves

What was the plan?

Abraham decided that he would tell the Egyptians that his wife Sarah was his sister.. *How Do You Like Those Jinnas*

Now, before you jump off the boat, remember that Sarah was a half sister to Abraham. So, it is a half truth.

Now So, Abraham probable justified this in his mind. He didn't think it was a deliberate lie...It was just telling the truth without telling all of the truth.....You know how that is. We do it all the time.....

You are my sister. So *just tell* them that. You don't have to add that you are also my wife. Can you not imagine the discussion that went on between Abraham and Sarah?

Now, if you are ~~sorry~~ thinking badly of Abraham, let me remind you that the Bible says in this passage ~~and~~ aswell as many others that Sarah was one of the world's most beautiful women. At 65 years of age, ~~if~~ she was a knock out. And those kings of Egypt who had all of there wives and got women from all over the world, they thought ~~there~~ *Here* was a choose one."

one The Bible uses the word "fare" which in hebrew simplely means: "beautiful." Here she is a beautiful woman. Abraham knew that. He was no dummy...He knew.

He says...I will tell you what we are going to do Sarah....We are hungry.....God had tested them.....Do you see what happened.....when God brings testing and you decide that your are going to solve your own problems. See what happened. He is going down, down, donw. So he told a half truth. He didn't tell the whole truth. He got Sarah convinced "listen, you are a beautiful woman and I know what they are going to do to me." You can tell, how much he really cared for his wife....He didn't even think about what was going to happen to Sarah. He only thought about himself.....So, Sarah you just tell them that you are my sister. That

is the plan I have to save myself..... I Try to put myself into some of these story. and I wonder How Sitnley would have reacted in this situation

Handwritten notes in the left margin, including "The Bible" and "13:3-4".

And the result is that he lost his testimony in front of the world that God wanted him to be a blessing to. The Egyptians in this case. And they had to even drive him away. And I am thankful that God did take care of him.

And I would also like to add that when Abram left Egypt according to the Bible in Vs 2 he was very rich...Never mistake the fact that just because you are worldly prosperous, because you have a lot of money and material possessions, never argue that that is the bases of being truly blessed of God. It may or may not be...

Job was just as blessed when God took all of his wealth. And Job said "though he slay me, yet will I trust him. The poor of this world can be rich with God. And the rich of this world can be desperately poor without God.^{So} Never interpreted material ~~wealth~~ wealth as being a sign that God is really blessing your life. Because you may have compromised somewhere along the line in order to get there.

Abraham was rich alright. But he had ~~compromised~~ compromised his faith and he was weak in his blessings. He had fallen down because he had gone to the wrong place for help and because he had a plan to save ^{his own} his own neck. And he failed to trust God.....

Now, Abraham is going to fail a lot more in Genesis as you are going to see. But this is one of the key points in his life.

(3C) In chapter 13:3-4 we learn something about the future of Abraham. And it gives us hope and encouragement because we also fail ^{in our faith} _{We} show the weakness of the flesh. We have gone to the wrong places for help. We have had the wrong plans to save ourselves.

And our whole future is ahead of us and we say "on what does it really depend?" IT DEPENDS ON TWO THINGS..... *Living a productive, meaningful Christian life, depends on two things*

(1D) Number one, is returning to the place of the altar. Return to the place of the altar. It says in Vs 3 "he went on his journey from the Negev as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning."

The point is that God is bringing you back there. He could have built the altar anyplace. ^{But God} He brought him back to the place he had left and taught him a fantastic lesson.....DON" T LEAVE GOD OUT..... He brought him back to the place of the altar.

You must return to the place of the altar. You may think you can go on in your own way and solve your own problems. But, you must come back to the place of the altar in your life.

(2D) Secondly, he realized that he needed God's help. He realized he needed God's help. Because the Bible says in Vs 4: "there abram called on the name of the Lord."

This take us all the way back to chapter 12 verse 8. It has been a long time since he called upon the name of the Lord. He realized his need of God's help.

The thing that really impressed me is that Abraham who is called a friend of God and who has such a fantastic testimony of faith in the Bible yet he failed so badly. And in that I was encouraged. Not because I want to fail. But because I know that when I do, God never gets tired of me saying "h elp"^{2 car}...He called on the name of the Lord. *And restore the*
spiritment of fellowship with The Living God -

Let us close with a word of prayer

Will you do that this ^{Today} ~~morning~~ ?
Will you call upon his name
Will you ask him to save you?