

## *A Matter of Trusting God*

*Genesis 20:1-18*

*“So we have to ask ourselves, ‘What has happened here in Gerar?’ And we know part of the answer from our own hearts. There are certain old sins to which each of us are uniquely susceptible—‘sin which clings so closely’ (Hebrews 12:1). We each have our unique susceptibilities. Sin that may not appeal to others maintain a deadly lure for us and promote a tragic recidivism. Abraham’s clinging sin when pressured was to trust himself rather than God. Generally he trusted God. Abraham believed the divine promise, and it was credited to him as righteousness (15:6). But sometimes when pushed, he decided to give God a little help with a ‘little’ lie. Inarticulate musings like, ‘Lord, I trust you, but I just want to make sure that things work out right’ accompany such sins. But such trust (which is really distrust of God) can have no place in a believer’s life if he or she desires maximum use by God... Abraham was God’s friend, a ‘somebody’ who had to learn to trust God alone. And God was working to that end.*  
Hughes

- I. The Bible is full of contrasts to show us the difference between darkness and light, the spiritual realm and the physical realm, holiness and sin, righteousness and unrighteousness, God’s character and Satan’s character, and those who choose to live upright and holy lives and those who don’t. The contrasts are meant to give us wisdom and understanding concerning life. In Genesis 19 and 20 we are given a stark contrast between how Abraham lived and how Lot lived. Both men were righteous, but the choices they made show that being righteous, does not necessarily keep a believer from making sinful choices no matter how mature they might be in their relationship with Christ. God in His grace gives us these examples as warnings for us to keep us from falling and to spare us from reaping the negative consequences of sinning against Him.

Gen. 19:30-38

1 Cor. 3:12-15

1 Sam. 14:47

2 Chron. 20:1,10-12

1 Cor. 6:9-11

Rom. 8:29

Hosea 10:12

1 Thess. 5:23

**1 Cor. 10:12-13** *12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!  
13 No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*

- II. We are told in John 15 that God will cut certain things out of our lives to make us more productive in bearing His fruit of righteousness. An important part of that is abiding or remaining in a vital relationship with Christ. Abraham was God's friend. He knew the importance of walking with God and obeying His commandments, yet he struggled in trusting that He would take care of his every need. The Lord left him stumble back into the recurring sin of not trusting Him to bring to light through negative circumstances his need to repent and turn from it. Otherwise, his lack of trusting God would keep the Lord from fulfilling His good, pleasing, and perfect will through Him. There is no greater place to be than in the will of God, but to be there means that we must fully trust Him as we journey through life.

Gen. 20:1-2

Gen. 12:12-14

Rom. 6:12-13

Rom. 6:20-22

John 15:1-8

Heb. 12:5-11

***Jn. 15:1-2*** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

- III. God's chastisement of his children who sin against Him comes in many forms. He chastises through the Holy Spirit's convicting influence. He chastises through godly sorrow that leads to repentance. And, if necessary, He will chastise through negative circumstances that humble and break us. Abraham's chastisement came through a powerful king who he sinned against him by lying to him. The king rightfully dressed him down with language that made it clear to Abraham that his actions were reprehensible and disgraceful, especially from a man whose God was his friend. The only reason the king blessed him was because of how God revealed Himself to him. Otherwise, it would not have ended well. God opened Abimelech's eyes to His existence, and in that the king showed grace toward Abraham and Sarah. If it wasn't for God's grace, where would we be?

Gen. 20:3-18

2 Cor. 7:10

Exodus 34:6-7

**2 Timothy 2:13** 13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.