

Remnant Life Church  
January 21, 2018  
**Genesis: Abraham-Going it Alone**  
**Part II**  
Genesis 12:10-20

Last week:

It is always dangerous when you idolize someone...

- Abraham is forced, through a famine, to go to Egypt for food
- The problem was he never asked God
  - the problem increases as he not only makes this decision without God and then makes additional decisions also without Him
  - It leads to a situation that not only impacts Abraham but Pharaoh and his entire household
- The next major issue was Abraham's scheme to "protect" Sarah and himself
  - Did God need Abraham to do this in order to keep him safe?
  - Of course not, but when we act without God's leading we will always put ourselves in places that we do not belong
- Fear is a powerful and terrible enemy of our Christian walk
- Story of the farmer and Ole' Bessy

**READ – Genesis 12:14-20**

- (Review) Abraham's plan to lie about his wife while in Egypt was wrong for 4 very distinct reasons
  1. It minimized and even dismissed the power and presence of God
  2. It jeopardized the purity of his wife and the promise of God
  3. Abraham was looking to and counting on his wife for the blessing that God had promised and only God was able to deliver
  4. All of Abraham's fears were of his own creation
- But his plan was also very clever
  - If he claimed Sarah was his sister that would have put her under his protection
  - If the Pharaoh wanted to marry her (add her to his harem) he would have to pay a dowry for which Abraham could set the price
  - Citing their customs, she could have remained with Abraham under his protection as the head of her clan during the engagement time
  - All the while they continue to live as husband and wife
  - Abraham would set the wedding date ensuring that it was as long a time in the future as possible
  - In the meantime, they would watch for the famine to end and when it did, they would slip away together and escape

THIS MORNING – when you act in this way, apart from or outside of God's will, the actions you take will impact others, and always in a negative way – in other words your sin will encompass the people around you

- Remember – everything that Abraham was scheming to control had no basis in reality
- But his actions were very real especially for those around him
- It begins with Abraham’s failure of faith
  - That failure leads to dishonesty (in this case a half-truth)
  - A half-truth is intentionally holding back a portion of the whole truth in order to mislead someone
  - In other words, a half-truth is a whole lie
- Consider those who were drawn in to the events he put in motion...

It has to start with Sarah

- This is his wife!
- How must she have felt being used as a human-shield to protect her husband who is, quite obviously and literally, hiding behind her
- The Bible does not tell us how she felt or reacted but, ladies, how would you feel?
  - Consider she has been thrown into a completely foreign culture
  - i.e. My Fair Lady – first performed on stage in London in 1956 with Harrison Ford and Julie Andrews
    - The street-dirty cockney girl suddenly living in wealth
    - This is the type of culture shock that Sarah would have faced at least initially
  - It even might have crossed her mind that since she had not been able to give Abraham a son this was his way of getting rid of her
  - Whatever her thoughts I think I can almost guarantee you that she was deeply hurt
    - When other people are hurt because of our sins we seldom consider the depth of the pain we cause
    - Why? Because we are so focused on ourselves
- While Abraham’s fears were unfounded in the beginning, he created very real problems through his actions
- Look at what happens and how many people are involved...

1. We have already considered the one it impacted the most – Sarah

2. (v 17) *But the Lord inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram’s wife Sarai.*
- a. The Bible does not specifically tell us 2 things about what happens to Pharaoh
    - i. What the disease was
    - ii. How Pharaoh determined that it was because of Abraham they were suffering
  - b. What we do know is that Abraham’s actions did not stay hidden
    - i. We can easily try and fool ourselves into think we are getting away with something but we never really do
    - ii. God will use any means to reveal the true condition of your heart
  - c. Pharaoh summons Abraham
    - i. He does not ask, “Are you the one responsible?”

- ii. He does not ask, “Do you know anything about this?”
  - iii. He does not ask, “Can you help me with this problem?”
  - iv. *What have you done to me?! (v 18)*
    - 1. How did he know Abraham was responsible?
    - 2. You must remember that Egyptian wise-men and magicians also had power (Ex. 7)
    - 3. They would have divined the source of the plague (About 500 years later they would really understand what plagues were)
    - 4. Pharaoh then chastises Abraham for what he has done
      - a. A pagan ruler chastising the chosen of God
      - b. God will use whatever he needs to use to accomplish His will
  - d. What were the consequences?
    - i. Abraham grieved God by his lack of faith
      - 1. We do not read those words but we see the action God took to change the situation
    - ii. Abraham lost his testimony before Pharaoh
      - 1. Rather than being seen as a godly man he is revealed to be a schemer and a liar
      - 2. By the way, his grandson would actually be named that by Isaac (Jacob means schemer or deceiver)
    - iii. He set in motion events that would haunt him in the future
      - 1. We read later that Sarah gives her slave-girl Hagar to Abraham to try and conceive the child God promised but they were unwilling to wait for
      - 2. Where did Hagar come from? From that time in Egypt (Gen 16:3)
      - 3. Ishmael – became the father of the Arab nations; Isaac – father of the Jewish nation
      - 4. They have been fighting each other for the past 4000 years
    - iv. He presents a pattern of behavior that would be repeated by his son Isaac
      - 1. Gen 26 – Isaac, Rebekah, and Abimelech (King of the Philistines)
      - 2. Virtually an identical scenario
      - 3. Sinful behavior not only impacts those closest to us but is often passed on and repeated over and over
3. BUT...God’s will is done
- a. He protects Abraham’s life and Sarah’s purity
  - b. He provides for Abraham the beginnings of a vast measure of wealth that will eventually lead to Abraham and Lot separating continuing to put in place the events God desires
  - c. He introduces His chosen people to the Egyptians who God would later use to preserve and prepare His people, through 400 years of captivity, to establish their own nation



4. What do we take with us this morning?
  - a. **First** – sin always carries consequences
    - i. Abraham’s consequences were not immediate but did reveal themselves later
    - ii. There is no statute of limitations with sin in the courts of God
  - b. **Second** – sin will cause you to lose your testimony
    - i. Years to develop, seconds to lose
    - ii. We must show ourselves to be different than the world
  - c. **Third** – sin always negatively impacts others in your life
    - i. For Abraham it was his hosts the Egyptians
    - ii. For Sarah it was giving her slave-girl to her husband then dealing with her after Ishmael was born
    - iii. For Ishmael it was being banished from his home
    - iv. For Isaac it was repeating the sins of his father
  - d. **Fourth** – sin always grieves the heart of God
    - i. While others might suffer it is ultimately against God that we sin
    - ii. **Psalm 51:4a** - *Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight*
      1. David’s sin with Bathsheba
      2. It affected them both, Uriah, the baby
    - iii. When David sinned by numbering his fighting men rather than trusting in God a plague came on the whole nation (**2 Sam 24**) – 70,000 died
5. Our salvation is in the fact that our God is loving, merciful, kind, and long-suffering and what He desires to be done will be done

A man by the name of Roger was hitchhiking his way home one night, and he would never forget the date--May 7. His heavy suitcase had made him tired but he was excited as he had just completed his tour of military duty and was headed home. Sticking his thumb out to an oncoming car, he quickly lost hope when he saw it was a beautiful, sleek, new Cadillac but, to his surprise, the car stopped. The passenger door opened. He ran toward the car, tossed his suitcase in the back, and thanked the handsome, well-dressed man as he slid into the front seat. "Going home for keeps?" he was asked, "Sure am," he responded. "Well, you're in luck if you're going to Chicago." "Not quite that far," Roger answered, "Do you live in Chicago?" "I have a business there" came the reply, "my name is Hanover." After talking about many things, Roger, a Christian, felt a compulsion to witness to this fifty-ish, apparently very successful businessman about Christ. But he kept putting it off, till he realized he was only about thirty minutes from his home. It was now or never. So, Roger cleared his throat, "Mr. Hanover," he began, "I'd like to talk to you about something very important to me." He then proceeded to explain the way of salvation, ultimately asking Mr. Hanover if he would like to receive Christ as his Savior. To Roger's astonishment the Cadillac pulled over to the side of the road. At first Roger thought he was going to be told to get out but instead the businessman bowed his head and received Christ.

And when he turned to thank Roger he said quietly, his voice filled with emotion, "This is the greatest thing that has ever happened to me."

Well five years went by, Roger now married, had a two-year-old son, and a business of his own. While packing his suitcase for a business trip to Chicago one afternoon, he found the small, white business card Hanover had given to him five years earlier. Arriving in Chicago he looked up Hanover Enterprises. Standing in the lobby of the office building a receptionist told him it was impossible to see Mr. Hanover, but he could speak with Mrs. Hanover. A little confused as to what was going on, he was ushered into a lovely office and found himself facing a very professional looking woman in her fifties. She extended her hand. "You knew my husband?" she inquired. Roger recounted for her the story of how her husband had given him a ride when hitchhiking home after the war. "Can you tell me when that was?" she asked quietly. "It was May 7, five years ago. I remember because it was the day I was discharged from the army." Roger asked hesitantly, "Anything special about that day?" Now he was wondering should he mention giving his witness? But, he decided, since he had come this far, he might as well go all the way. "Mrs. Hanover," he began, "I explained the gospel to your husband as we rode along that evening. He pulled over to the side of the road and wept against the steering wheel. Mrs. Hanover, he gave his life to Christ that day." Roger actually took a step back as Mrs. Hanover erupted in explosive sobs that shook her entire body. Finally, getting a grip on herself, she managed to say, "I had prayed for my husband's salvation for years and I truly believed that God would save him." "And so," said Roger, "Where is your husband, Mrs. Hanover?" "He's dead," she wept, struggling to speak the words. "He was involved in a fatal car accident not long after he let you out of the car. He never got home. And so you see--I thought God had not kept His promise." Sobbing now again, she added, "I stopped living for God five years ago because I thought He had not kept His word! But He sent you here to me, today, so I would know that He was faithful and answered my prayers."

- Your daily walk with God is not just about you.
- The positive and negative actions of your life will always have an effect on other people's lives
- Make those effects positive to the glory of God!