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Old Testament Literature

15 February 2023

“Lacking Faith but Blessed”

In Gen 12:10-20, there was a severe famine in the region, so Abram traveled to Egypt to temporarily reside there. As he prepared to enter Egypt, he told Sarai, his wife, to tell people she was his sister in order not to get killed by them and so that he could be treated decently. The Egyptians noticed Sarai's beauty when Abram arrived in their country, and she was then carried inside his palace. For her sake, he treated Abram well, and Abram got camels, sheep, livestock, male and female slaves, and male and female donkeys. But because of Pharaoh's family's exposure to Sarai, the Lord inflicted severe illnesses on them. Pharaoh then called Abram and asked, "What have you done to me? Why did you not let me know that she was your wife?" Then, after giving his men instructions on Abram, Pharaoh ordered them to send him off with his wife and all of his possessions.

In Gen 20:1-18, on their way to the Negeb, Abraham and Sarah made Gerar their home. While there, Abraham pretended that Sarah was his sister and convinced King Abimelech of Gerar to take Sarah as his own. However, God warned Abimelech in a dream that if he approached Sarah, he would perish; instead, he must give Sarah back to Abraham, a prophet who would pray for him. Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female slaves so they could have children again because the Lord had kept all the women in Abimelech's household from conceiving because of Abraham's wife, Sarah.

As we can see in both stories, Abram/Abraham lied to the people around them about his wife for the sake of not getting killed. Abraham was afraid of getting killed, and he did not trust God that He would protect them from any harm. However, the difference between both these stories is that Gen 12 does not give as much information as Gen 20. There is less communication between Abraham and the Pharaoh in Gen 12 than between Abraham and the king of Gerar in Gen 20. Abraham explains why he did this in Gen 20:11-13; there was undoubtedly no fear of God in Gerar, and the people would try to kill Abraham because of his wife, Sarah. In addition, she is actually his sister, his father's child but not his mother's. He told her, "This is how you can express your love to me: Everywhere we go, say of me, 'He is my brother.'" But in Gen 12, there is no explanation.

I think that Abraham was not right in his actions. As a human, he was trying to protect himself. However, as a Christian, he did not trust God. In Gen 12:1-3, God blesses Abram and says that He will make him into a great nation, make his name great, bless those who bless him and curse those who curse him, and that people will be blessed through him. If God said this, He would do it because He is a God that keeps His promises. However, Abram still got scared and told a lie to protect himself; he did not trust the Lord. We can see Abram's lack of faith in God right after God's promises.

We can learn from these stories that God's faithfulness and mercy never fail, even when we fail Him multiple times. God promised Abraham His protection and provision, but he still did not trust Him when he should have, and Abraham did not lie once but twice. God could have punished or cursed Abraham for lying multiple times, but he did not. Instead, He blessed him and his descendants. This also happens we us nowadays. We make mistakes, break the rules, disobey, lie, forget about God, and fail Him every day, multiple times. However, He still blesses

us, takes care of us, loves us, and forgives us, even when we repeat the same mistakes. When He says that He will do it, He will; there are no “but”s or “if”s, and we have to listen to Him and obey. When we say that we trust in God, we actually do not most of the time. Trusting in God is harder than it sounds. It is about letting go and letting Him be in control. It is about surrendering. It is about sacrificing our flesh’s desire and doing His will. It is about having faith in His plans and in the wonders He will do. We often say that we trust Him, but we still try to control many situations, or like Abraham, we get scared of letting Him be in control. I have many experiences with trusting in God, and many of them did not work as well as they should have. I did the same thing as Abraham; I tried to do things on my own with my own strength. However, it is not about how we will face troubles and difficulties but how we will let God handle the situation. We need to learn to trust Him when facing trials, tribulations, distractions, and difficulties and understand that no matter how many times we fail, God never fails, and He still loves us and forgives us.

In these stories, Abraham was not able to trust in God, even right after God blessed him. But God had mercy and still blessed him. We can understand from these stories that even when trusting in God does not seem easy, we have to obey Him and do so. He will never fail, and He will still be by our side no matter what.