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### The Power of Lies

In Gen 12:10-13:2 Abraham and his wife, Sarai, plan to flee to Egypt due to a famine they are experiencing. Abraham tells Sarai to tell the Egyptians that she is not his wife, but his brother. Abraham believes that if the Egyptians were to know that Sarai and him were siblings, then Abraham would not be killed. Eventually, a pharaoh is captured by Sarai's beauty, and invites her to his house. She was then rewarded by the pharaoh which benefited Abraham. It was until the Lord plagued the pharaoh's house. The pharaoh confronted Abraham, and to avoid being punished by the Lord, he sent Abraham and Sarai away with riches.

In Gen 20:1-18 Abimelech took Abraham's wife because Sarah told him she is Abraham's sister. God visited Abimelech in his dream and told him he will die because he is with a married woman. Abimelech responded to God by saying Sarah had told him she had a sibling, and was not in fact married. God responds by saying if he gives back Abraham's wife, he will not die and others that associate with him. God heals Abimelech and his family

Both stories are similar in a way that both involve Abraham and Sarah fleeing to the south. There was a similarity involving a king. In Gen 12:10 it was a pharaoh and in Gen 20:1, it was Abimelech who both played similar roles. Those kings were involved with Abraham's plan which was to have Sarai/Sarah trick them into thinking she was Abraham's sister. This part of the

plan was to prevent Abraham being killed. Readers can take from both passages that Abraham did not put his full trust in God.

In contrast, Abraham has told Sarah from the beginning in Gen 12 to tell people they are siblings, but in the end of Gen 20 it seems to be that Sarah has followed that plan for a while. In Gen 20, God spoke to Abimelech, but in Gen 12, there is no interaction between God and the pharaoh. Also, we do not know if the plagues in Egypt were healed, but in Gen 20, Abraham prays for Abimelech's healing. At the end of the passage of Gen 12, the pharaoh sends Abraham and Sarai away with riches, but in Gen 20, Abimelech tells Abraham he can stay wherever he wants to be with riches.

After reading both passages, I do not think lying is something one should do, but I understand why Abraham did it. He did not know what other way to protect himself, even though God had promised he would be blessed, including his descendants. Due to Abraham lying, the Pharaoh and Abimelech almost ended up having a terrible fate because Sarah, who had told them she was not married (she in fact was), which they believed her, caused them to deal with consequences that weren't necessarily their fault. Readers can sense that Abraham did not intend for anyone to be harmed, but since the lies caused God to interfere between the kings, it makes a point on why lying is not okay.

These passages resonate with other stories like Gen 30. In that passage, Rachel is jealous that she did not carry any children with Jacob. In response, Jacob gets mad at Rachel because she is making him feel responsible for something that he has no control over. Rachel then makes a maid have kids with Jacob so she can have a child. Jacob then has multiple children with different women. It shows hypocrisy because God was going to punish the kings for speaking to

a married woman, but did not do so to Jacob, who slept with women, and that is considered okay only because Rachel said to do so? Not sure how that completely makes sense. This passage resonates with Gen 11 because one passage is glorified of a similar theme involving cheating. There is a similar scenario where one involves a white lie and the other does the act of cheating (Gen 30). It makes you wonder how the passage of Gen 30 is even okay.

From these passages, I think one of the lessons that stood out to me is that cheating on your significant other is just unacceptable. Based on how God reacted to the kings when He found out the kings were speaking to a married woman just shows how God does not condone it. I know Sarah did not cheat on Abraham, but since the plan was for Sarah and Abraham to pretend they were siblings, and to have Sarah interact with the kings- it made the kings look very wrong for having interest in a married woman. God does not tolerate the act of cheating since it is part of the ten commandments, and it is a serious matter.

After reading the passages, I believe what Abraham did to survive in Egypt is something to take note of. He lied to protect himself, and a question that one might ask is “how far would you go to save yourself?” Abraham put the lives of the Ambimelech and the pharaoh in danger. He did not intend to have them be punished by God, but it almost happened. I think people should be careful on what to do when in danger because putting others at risk to save yourself is selfish, especially if they’re innocent. It teaches the lesson of taking the considerations of others when making a decision. Sometimes you have to ask yourself, “ how will this affect them?”