

GENESIS 20 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE OLD NATURE - ([SERMON MP3](#))

Interact with the following statements and their connection with Genesis 20.

Believers are fallible and can relapse into sin at any stage of life.

The moral inconsistencies of believers can shame the name of the Lord.

Many times our greatest temptations follow on the heels of special blessings.

Our disobedience is often camouflaged by excuses obvious to all but ourselves.

Unresolved conflicts don't disappear, instead they have a way of resurfacing later in life.

The eternal security of a believer is rooted in God's grace, not good deeds.

Beware of the half-truth. you may have gotten hold of the wrong half.

In the following passages, identify who acted as an intercessor and what lesson, truth, or principle can be derived from the act.

Intercessor	Biblical Reference	Lesson, Truth, Principle
	(Job 42:7-9)	
	(Is. 53:12; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25)	
	(Num. 12; Ex. 32:7-14)	
	(Gen. 20:6-7, 17)	

In (Genesis 20:11), we find that Abraham is living in _____ instead of faith. He is afraid of the Canaanites and so he engineers a deceptive solution to try to save his neck.

- *Why do you think Abraham traveled to a new place after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah? What may have been the cause of the fear we see creep up in Abraham?*
- *What is the parallel between Abraham and Abimelech (Genesis 20:11), and Jonah and the ship's crew (Jonah 1:10)?*
- *Think of a difficult situation in which fear or unbelief led you to a course of action that didn't honor God. What were the consequences and lessons you learned?*

In (Genesis 20:6) we see that God prevented Abimelech from committing the sin of adultery with Sarah. The phrase, "God healed Abimelech" in (Genesis 20:17), causes many scholars think that perhaps God's means of preventing sin was to strike Abimelech with some sort of disease.

- *It must have seemed like a terrible affliction, but it was in fact God's mercy and kindness. Can you think of a time when God used an obstacle, affliction, or even a tragedy as a gift of mercy?*
- *Can you think of any other passages of scripture where God prevented people from sinning by some sort of divine intervention? (See for starters Genesis 19:11; Numbers 22:22-35; Luke 22:50-51). Can you think of a time God prevented you from succumbing to evil?*

Sometimes we think that our sin is our business. We say things like, "It's my life. I'll do what I want. What's it to you?" But our sins often affect more than just us. Such was the case with Abraham.

- *How did Abraham's sin affect Sarah? How did it affect Abimelech and his household?*
- *Can you think of an example of how the sin of someone else affected you or your family? Can you think of an example of how your sin affected others?*

(Hebrews 12:1-2) says, "Let us also lay aside every weight, and the sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." That verse talks about sins that cling to us, besetting sins. In the story of Abraham in (Genesis 20), we see his besetting or clinging sin - fear.

- *What sins are a recurring problem for you? (James 5:16) says, "Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." Perhaps you could share one of your besetting sin struggles with your study group and ask them to pray for you.*
- *How is God dealing with you concerning those sins that cling to you? How is he helping you battle against them and resist them?*
- *What is God's attitude toward us when we fail time and time again, as Abraham did?*

Compare Abraham's prophetic intercession in (Genesis 18:16-33) to that in (Genesis 20:7:17). How were the two situations alike and different?

- *Why did the Lord wait for Abraham's prayers before acting in each case?*
- *What might Abraham have learned about his responsibilities as a prophet of the Lord?*

What are some lessons we can learn about how a believer is supposed to live amongst unbelievers? If they don't fear God, does that give us a measure of license or lenience? Why or why not?

- *In (Genesis 12:18-19) _____ rebukes Abraham. Likewise, in (Genesis 20:9-10) _____ rebuked Abraham. Can you think of a time when an unbeliever's moral stance was more solid than yours? How did that make you feel?*
- *Just because a person is an unbeliever, should we write off their rebukes and disregard their complaints? Why or why not?*

In the end of Genesis 20, God restores Abraham and Sarah and enriches them with gifts from Abimelech. What kind of thoughts may have gone through their minds at this juncture concerning any hope of the covenant being fulfilled now?

- *What are you tempted to think about God's promises in the wake of your own sin?*
- *What are you tempted to do when you spiritually fall AGAIN? What kind of coping thoughts, guilty thoughts, penance thoughts, unworthy thoughts, or condemning thoughts go through your heart?*
- *When we fall and fail once again what should we do? After a relapse, what should we think? Are there any verses that come to mind concerning this question?*
- *When others around us trip and slip into sin, what should we do?*

Do some additional study on the following key words and be prepared to share your findings with the group.

Prophet (Gen. 20:7)

Integrity of heart and innocence of hands (Gen. 20:5)

Fear of God (Gen. 20:11)

Wife (Gen. 20:2,7,11,12,14,18)

As you interacted with the text, what things encouraged, convicted, challenged, or informed you? How can you apply what you've learned in Genesis 20 in real tangible ways? What must you know, believe, or do?