

A Man's Weakness and God's Mercy

Deep within the consciousness of every human being is the desire to live and to survive. Self-preservation has always been one of man's sometimes positive and sometimes negative attributes. When does this positive attribute become negative in the faith of a Christian? Abram has followed God's direction and is currently living in the land of Canaan where as we continue our study it says, "there was famine in the land; and Abram went down into Egypt to dwell there; for the famine was severe in the land Genesis 12:10. In this lesson we will turn our attention to the events that took place before and while in Egypt.

"When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, 'I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake.'" Genesis 12:11-12

Abram's Weakness:

How many of us can truly look at Abram and ask the question, now why did you do that? I would say a majority of us could not even begin to judge Abram for his action. Self-preservation as already been mentioned, is a strong impulse within our mind, and unfortunately the impulse can lead to having a weakness in faith. In Abram's case he became fearful of a fellow human being and started trusting in himself regarding the preservation of his life, rather than trusting in the one who could truly preserve his life. ***"I will _____ those who bless you and those who dishonor you I will _____."* Genesis 12:3**

- ***Proverbs 29:25, "The fear of _____ lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is _____."***
- ***Psalms 118:6, "The _____ is on my side; I will not _____. What can man do to me?"***

There is no doubt in my mind that Abram knew what God told him to be true why else would he have left his home **Genesis 12:4**, but in a moment of weakness Abram grew weak in faith. He was listening to his flesh and not listening to his spirit.

- ***Galatians 5:17, "For the desires of the _____ are against the _____, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are _____ to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do."***
 - Sometimes in a moment of anxiety or fear, we are more prone to listening to our humanly side rather than our spiritual side. We must remember that as Christians, ***"those who belong to _____ have _____ the flesh with its passions and desires."* Galatians 5:24.** Whenever we are tempted to act in the same manner that we find people of the world acting in we must remember to ***"walk in the Spirit"* Galatians 5:25.**

As was mentioned in Proverbs 29:25 fear for our safety if we are not careful will cause us to become ensnared. Abram's fear of what might happen to him at the hands of the Egyptians caused him to act deceitfully.

- ***“So Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your _____? Why did you say, ‘She is my _____,’ so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your _____; take her, and go.” Genesis 12:18-19***
 - Abram as can be seen in Pharaoh's contention with him was guilty of deceiving or another way of looking at it is lying to Pharaoh. Notice how easily ensnared Abram became because of fear. His fear made him a liar not only in the eyes of Pharaoh, but also in the eyes of God. Lying is something that the Lord strongly detests, and that is a lying tongue **Proverbs 6:16**. It is because of this we see this warning from God to His people in **Psalm 101:7** – “No one who practices deceit shall dwell in my house; no one who utters lies shall continue before my eyes.
 - **Revelation 22:15**, “Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices _____.”

Even though Abram was not his best in this instance and whenever we are not our best at times, we can take faith in knowing that God will always be at his best!

God continued to keep his promise to Abram:

- God protected the honor of Abram by protecting Sarai – **Genesis 12:17**
- God provided for Abram's material needs – **Genesis 12:20**
- God protected the life of Abram – **Genesis 12:19-20**

Thanks be to God that when we are at our worst, God is still at his best.

- God protects the honor that we have in Christ - **1st John 1:9**, “If we _____ our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- God provides for our material needs – **Matthew 6:8**, “for your Father _____ what you need before you ask him.”
- God protects our eternal life through Christ – **John 3:16**, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever _____ in him should not perish but have _____ life.”

Abram showed appreciation of what God did for him by demonstrating thankfulness:

- **Genesis 13:2-4**, “Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, to the place where he had made an _____ at the first. And there Abram _____ upon the name of the Lord”
 - **Psalm 107:1**, “Oh give _____ to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!”

Have you called upon the name of the Lord in thanksgiving?