

Genesis: God and Man

Genesis 12:9-20 Abram Went Down to Egypt

Continued study of the relationships between God and people

Recently

- Called out from family, friends, country, father (father's rule, patriarchal society, middle east - islam / today) -
- Everything he knew and loved, that was familiar
- Promised: a land that I will show you
- **The list of blessing is greater than the list of leaving**

When you have met God in the loneliness of your soul, and you and God come to the point where there is nobody else in the world, that is the passion we need for God today. That is the kind of love I need to have for God. I will never be able to love other people in the world until I have mastered my love for God -- a passion for God that nothing can diminish.

- A.W. Tozer, *My Daily Pursuit*, January 13

The disciples could not have fully understood what they were getting into when they responded to Jesus' call. Whatever expectations, doubts, whatever curiosity, excitement, or uncertainty they felt, nothing could have prepared them for what lay ahead. Everything about Jesus -- his teaching, compassion, and wisdom; His life, death, and resurrection; His power, authority and calling -- would shape every aspect of the rest of their lives. ...

When Jesus called his first disciples...pp16-17..

The pastor is not the minister -- at least in the way we typically think of a minister The pastor is the equipper, and every member of the church is a minister.

Pp34

Chan, *Multiply*

Luk 14:25-27 NKJV - Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

Not cannot personal rejection but cannot because physically/spiritually impossible

9-13

A famine in the land - famine, hunger. No means to produce food

"Starving venezuelans beat cattle to death with rocks"

Empty supermarkets. Collapsed economy. Violence. Selling children. Tragedy. Human caused.

This famine, probably just more the result of natural causes

Also used figuratively in scripture referring to a famine of God's word.

The word of God was lost, was found, Josiah had it read aloud to everyone.

We need to have it read aloud to us. For us. By us. To others. In our homes. In our cars. (commuting, bridge), in the garage (working and listening to messages here and there). I could do it more.

Is there a famine of God's word in your life?

In your heart (even if you've read it), are you going hungry?

Is there a famine in the church?

TRY TO FIND A GOOD CHURCH THAT BELIEVES, TEACHES AND LIVES THE BIBLE.

Scary.

Severe - Grievous

heavy, great, massive, abundant, numerous, hard, difficult, burdensome, very oppressive, numerous, rich

- a famine is no joke. The great depression.

Rev 6:6 NKJV - And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

Man, without the word of God our lives become all of those things.

Full of heavy, burdensome, oppressive things

With God's word, we get through them, we rise above them.

So Abram went down to Egypt...

Pretty logical right? We'll see Egypt in the future from here, Joseph's day, God prepares them for another famine, to provide for the world for seven years (but NOT handouts, payments)

But did God TELL Abram to go down to Egypt?

Didn't God tell Abram to just leave his parent's house, country, land and go to a new land that God would show him.

Is Egypt part of Israel's right inheritance? No. Not all of it.

I know it says and Abram went down...but I kinda get the feeling it's more a "eh...but, Abram went down to Egypt..."

So what happens...Abram isn't relying on God's word here. Here's relying on himself. Even if it does seem like the best option, we'll see already it's not...

They're getting close to Egypt...headed out of the boundary of God's promise to them Abram begins getting nervous and starts setting up Sarai for their story, his plan to protect himself

Isn't that what happens to us when we allow a little physical famine to drive us to a spiritual famine...

*we end up walking right out of the place God would provide for us and we lose peace
We've stopped trusting God and we're headed back towards the world and we begin to scheme to save our own behinds*

Indeed...Sarai, you're gorgeous. Scriptures says his WIFE (so even if there was some partial familial relationship, that was past, she's his wife now)

Above all else, Ashlee is my wife - not just my friend, she's not my girlfriend anymore, not my fiance...

He's telling the truth as we'll see, not just being a slick husband buttering up his wife
I'm not afraid of Ashlee leaving me, but if we were going into a rough neighborhood, in the middle of the night, on foot, I'd be afraid of her being taken from me...and for her safety.

But that's not Abram, he's afraid they'll KILL HIM for her sake, to give her to Pharaoh

The king can have anyone he wanted after all. That would be David's struggle at one point.

"It's good to be the king!"

Ash makes me feel like a king (maybe I'm buttering her up, idk...)

Therefore

There's no doubt about it, it'll happen... we'll see maybe Abram is making his own self-fulfilling prophecy here

because he's not walking with God, he's gone too far
Be careful not to get ahead of God. To assume he hasn't provided,
 even though he said he would and it just doesn't look like it.

Don't take matters into your own hands. Abram and sarai won't learn that lesson quite yet...

It's gotta happen because I'm assuming it will happen because it's what's going to happen because they'll do it because they can.

It's not necessarily an irrational fear...it's quite logical. Quite probable.

The dangers of putting ourselves into the hands of the world for our safety

The government making all the decisions for you

Opening up to people in ways we shouldn't

Being over dependant is going to cost you

This whole talk of minimum income. First off, who's making the money if you're not.

Redistribution of wealth.

Secondly, if they are footing the bill, who are you going to vote for (bribery), thirdly, if they're footing the bill that makes you their property - if they pay for everything, it's their choice what you get and what you don't. That never ends well.

If it's too good to be true, it's probably because it is.

They will say...Abram knew what they would say...but we'll see even though they do what he thinks they will, it's only because he isn't honest

Bartering with her beauty...and her life...for his life

She's getting a bit of a raw deal, but she loves her husband, and like a lot of excellent wives, usually end up giving up a lot to make sure their man is ok. But hey, maybe Sarai was stoked about getting the palatial hook up. Free facials, mani pedi, jewelry, just occasionally has to be romantic with the Pharaoh...yuck

The things we sell ourselves for. The things we sell our loved ones for.

Girls who go astray so often have little or no relationship with their dads (not all the time)

Absentee fathers and the havoc it plays on the kids

Workaholics, alcoholics, infidelity...it hurts everyone. What was gained?

We get one life. That's it. No matter how much time is left, get it going on the right path with what's left.

13,305 days today

Abram is about to sell out.

Being a sell out was the worst thing your favorite band, hero, friend etc. could do growing up.

If we're not bowing to God, we're going to bow to someone else.

It's going to happen. Those are the only two choices.

The bowing just might take different forms.

Again, afraid they need other supplies, other provision

Abram begins to lean back on his old ways to get what he thinks he needs

Old skills = great (good to use what skills you have when you need to)

Old ways = eh, it's your fate! (not good to resort to the flesh to do so)

14-17

Saw the woman (not reinforcing the sister act here)

Abram wanted Sarai to claim to be his sister

Could have been a half-truth, depending on the reading of the end of 11.

But maybe she wasn't. Either way, it wasn't scandalous for them to be married.

But they saw the woman. The point is being made that they see her as a woman with him, not as someone's wife.

Commended her to Pharoah - like Pharoah, dude...check her out!

Friends always trying to set up friends

WATCH OUT SHE MIGHT BE SOMEONE ELSE'S WIFE

Friend trying to get me to be interested in someone, nothing wrong with the person, but when I prayed about it, like am I missing something, should I be interested in this person, is this person it? God clearly, nearly audibly told me, "NO..."

Friends don't hook up friends. Let God be the matchmaker

And don't be taking nobody else's wife. If she rides into town with another dude, chances are, she's with that other dude

Interesting that she's VERY BEAUTIFUL

She's not the youngest lady at this time. So she must have been SMOKIN. Just like my wife. No matter how old I get, she'll still be the younger beauty. God hooked it up.

Sarai (remember her name means princess), taken to Pharaoh, but just to his house

Even if men are in power, it's a woman that pulls the strings - whether she likes it or not

Competing for Ashlee back in the day...no contest ;-) I had God in my corner

Women, please use that influence for good!

John the Baptist, Herod...

Treated Abram well for her sake - not a bribe, Pharaoh was in charge Pharaoh was an upstanding guy in a worldly way.

All the power in the world yet he's not just playing politics here. (Maybe a little as maybe he knew who Abram was, coming from a powerful family from a land up north)

Sort of paying for Sarai, but not in a trashy way. If there's such a thing as paying for a bride in an honorable way...but, women were more of a property in those days, sadly

Guys, you think your wife is high maintenance, an expensive date. If she's too expensive (e.g. You'd need to be a pharaoh to date her), give her back! There's plenty of non-princesses out there who are princesses in the inward woman

But the LORD

God comes through. Abram took Sarai out of the safe zone, of course what happens when they lie is that she's taken. God won't have that

Mar 10:9 NKJV - "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

Do not be the one to separate your own marriage or someone else's, even in a little way
All she did was hang out at Pharaoh's...but she was God's daughter. Abram's wife. And God was working in Pharaoh's life as well...

Plagued - touched, stricken, with disease

Was it the flu? Was it something sexually related just to prove a point to them?

The root word means: to touch, as in to lie with a woman

God was saying, don't sleep with her.

Thankfully Pharaoh listened, maybe because it was so severe.

If your life is blowing up, stop, listen for a minute, maybe God is warning you, showing you something (not punishing)

18-20

Why didn't you tell me? Pharaoh had an audience with Abram.

Dude? The bro code! Why didn't you tell me? Seriously! She's your wife! I don't want your wife. You don't have to give me your wife.

Pharaoh was mad, and rightly so

But "WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME"

Pharaoh didn't blame God for the circumstance. He knew Abram was at fault. He couldn't trust Abram. You'd think with his power, in that day, Abram would be killed.

Pharaoh knew something deeper was up.

When personal relationships sour, and it's our fault as believers. That's bad.

Especially with unbelievers.

Rebuked by the world. Bad witness.

Sometimes the world does the right thing even when we don't. That's more than sad. That's Severe - Grievous, heavy, great, massive, abundant, numerous, hard, difficult, burdensome, very oppressive, numerous, rich

Boy does it burn the bridge with them.

And boy should it be a weight on us

But Good morals Pharaoh still needed salvation.

Good morals won't get you into heaven.

(How good were they really, he bought this guy's sister in his mind, he had a whole bunch of other wives...)

Abram made payment for protection - he traded his wife for some cattle

maybe not his intended motive or move, but it was the core of the heart problem.

DID ABRAM EVEN EXPECT TO GET HER BACK AFTER THE FAMINE?

Maybe we take the fact that he got her back for granted.

How do you think she felt being barren? NOW MY HUSBAND IS SELLING ME TO PHARAH! Maybe their relationship was too much like that of a brother and sister and not enough connection, oneness of a husband and wife

What a barren relationship. With God. With each other. Now with Pharaoh. He was even shorting Pharaoh - no potential kingly offspring would come from this gift.

Abram, you almost made me sin.

More than a bad witness...he burned this guy. He made him almost stumble.

Oh the importance of doing this life right.

Those who see the hand of god and listen and mentally believe, but won't bow the knee

Interesting how people stop short (how i listen to a philosopher/political commentator on youtube, he's so close!) Several guys. See the truth of what's happening but won't bow the knee for one reason or another. Usually comes down to some moral issue. Not willing to accept their own need for a savior or not willing to see the horror of their sin they love.

Tell me God wasn't working among the Egyptians at this point.

Ultimately ABRAM SENT AWAY, still with all that he had. He didn't lose out. The Egyptians treated him too well.

Back to where he was supposed to be

Tail between his legs

Think about the look on Sarai's face that whole trip. Sheesh. He was in trouble.

God is gracious to get us back on track. Unfortunately, there's always a price to be paid for selling out. Thankfully Abram and Sarai patch it up and God uses their relationship to make a picture of Jesus, to birth a nation in Isaac and bring joy to their barren lives.

Whatever the famine, God will provide in it.

Don't sell out. Don't stop short. Don't go too far. Stay or go where God wants you to be, and wait for Him to show up with a feast.