

Abraham and Sarah – A Godly Marriage Containing Human Sinfulness |

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- By examining the marriage of Abraham and Sarah, there are several things we can learn.
 - That a husband and wife must stay committed to following and trusting God's plan for their lives.
 - That if we are not careful that sin will creep in and by acting on it, we can do things outside of God's will for our family.
 - Each partner must look out for and support the other. Especially if they begin relying on their own self instead of God.
 - That no marriage is perfect, and mistakes will be made. But there is forgiveness, grace and restoration from God. He will never give up on us.
- In the beginning of Abraham and Sarah's marriage they faithfully followed God's command. | Genesis 12:1-5b
 - **Read Genesis 12:1-5a**
 - Abraham and Sarah embarked on a journey that was based on a promise from God.
 - They did not know where they were going only that God had promised to make them into a great nation.
 - Here we see that they began well, they were faithfully following and trusting God's plan and direction in their marriage.
 - **They were unified in this effort.**
 - **God put Abraham and Sarah together for a divine and holy purpose, He has a great plan for them.**
 - Their marriage was not by accident, but it was providence.
 - At this early stage things seem to be going well, they have entrusted their family to God and they are being obedient.
 - However, we soon discover that even though they were chosen by God and showed great trust, that they too succumbed to sin and made decisions outside the will of God.
- Christians strive to live out a faithful and obedient marriage.
 - In our marriages we too strive to live faithfully.
 - This is of course the objective and goal for all Christian couples is to strive to faithfully live out our marriages in faithful obedience to God.
 - When God puts two people together it is with purpose, it is because He has a plan for their lives.
 - He knows why He put them together and what purpose they have to benefit the Kingdom of God.
 - This requires faithful obedience from both the husband and the wife.
 - **However, there will be a time where this faithfulness is tested. Where if we are not careful we may as a couple or individually, may try to take control of our own lives.**
 - While we may strive to live this marriage that is faithfully obeying God, we will find ourselves in times of temptation, trials and struggles that will put our faith to the test.
 - **Just because we may be in a period of time where we are being obedient, and things are going well if we let our guard down things can change in an instant.**
 - If we take our eyes off of Him, if we begin to think that instead of trusting His timing and plan that WE need to take action.
- **When times were rough, Abraham and Sarah tried to take control of their own lives instead of obediently obeying and trusting God.**
 - Abraham convinces Sarah to lie about their relationship. | Genesis 12:10-20

- Early in the Scriptures Abraham and Sarah were traveling through Egypt and Abraham was scared for HIS life because Sarah's beauty.
- His solution to this problem was to take matters into his own hands by asking Sarah to say she was his sister.
 - This did NOT go well.
- **Read Genesis 12:10-20**
- Abraham came into a difficult situation and instead of letting God handle it, he decided to take matters into his own hands.
 - He could have prayed and consulted God on what to do.
 - He could have remembered the promises of God and known that God would take care of him.
 - But instead of this he faltered and relied upon himself.
- **Abraham's selfishness led him into sin, and he put himself in control instead of trusting God.**
 - Abraham's motivation was out of selfishness as can be seen in verses 12-13.
 - They will kill **me**...
 - Say you are my sister...that it may go well with **me**...
 - That **my** life may be spared...
 - It led him to turn away from God's promises and instead to rely on his own abilities to solve his problems.
 - Abraham let selfishness creep in and that had a negative impact on his relationship with his wife.
 - **Abraham's selfishness also put Sarah in a position to choose to sin as well.**
 - As soon as either spouse begins to think more of themselves instead of the other, selfishness will give way and lead to trouble.
 - Sarah likely had a hard time justifying this "lie" that he was asking her to do.
- **What impact does selfishness have on a marriage? Can there be true unity? Does this selfishness have an impact on both partners?**
- **What might have been a better approach Abraham could have taken with this difficult circumstance?**
- Sarah convinces Abraham to take Hagar to bear a son | Genesis 16:1-3
 - Previously Abraham convinced Sarah to sin, now it is Sarah's turn.
 - **Even though God had already promised them a son, they were getting impatient and decided to take matters into their own hands.**
 - Genesis 15:4
 - "And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir."
 - **Read Genesis 16:1-3**
 - **Sarah concluded that God had prevented her from having children and therefore the logical "fix" to this was to come up with her own solution.**
 - She would "help" God out by creating a male heir through Hagar.
 - Sarah sin was taking matters into her own hands because her impatience in God's timing and lack of trust in His plan.
 - While knowing God had a plan they still sought to force it to happen.
 - They didn't trust God to work it out.

- Even though previously Abraham consulted God, here no such thing was done.
 - Sarah said it “may be” or “it’s possible” that this is how she could have children.
 - God was not consulted.
 - **Abraham gave into his wife’s suggestion and he too sinned.**
- The outcome of this was sin of course was immediate, as there was strife and pain after the birth of Ishmael.
 - This particular sin is still impacting us even in the present as his descendants are the Muslims.
- It is vital in our marriages that we are patient and trust God’s plan.
 - While God has a plan for our marriages, He doesn’t always let us in on ALL the details.
 - He expects us to live by faith and trusting Him to make the decisions and for it to be in His time.
 - But if we get impatient and force things to happen, there is a good chance those actions are not of God.
 - Impatience leads to forcing things to happen
 - One thing that is certain about being impatient is that it causes to force things to happen even when they shouldn’t.
 - **The consequences are almost always negative and certain too when we are impatient with God’s plan.**
 - We must let God work things out, we must trust Him and His timing.
 - **What are the effects of being impatient and trying to force something to happen in our marriages/family instead of patiently waiting and trusting God?**
- The husband and wife must support each other.
 - In both of these events we see where one spouse seems to convince the other to go down the wrong path.
 - We are no different, there will be times when one partner will struggle.
 - This is where the unity in marriage is so important, it is also to help lift the other up.
 - If one spouse is struggling or turning from the path God has laid out, the other spouse must be there to uplift and support.
 - In the case of Abraham and Sarah, instead of the other realizing what was going on they simply went along and complied.
 - Similar to Adam and Eve 😊.
 - **How can a husband and a wife support each other when one is struggling or making decisions like that of Abraham and Sarah?**
- Even though Abraham and Sarah had rough patches, they ended well and trusted God.
 - Even though Abraham and Sarah had sinned against God and ventured off of the path He had for them, God restored them.
 - God kept His promise and re-affirmed the covenant relationship and that Sarah would bear a son.
 - Genesis 17:1-2
 - Genesis 17:7-8
 - Genesis 17:15-21
 - Abraham witness the blessing of God’s plan in their marriage with the birth of Isaac.
 - Genesis 21:1-7
 - **Abraham and Sarah were remembered for their faith, not their failures.**

- **Hebrews 11:8-12**
- In the New Testament Abraham and Sarah are not remembered for their failures, but they are remembered for their faith.
- **We too have and will fail in our marriages, we will venture off of God's plan. But we too can receive the same forgiveness and be restored. We too will still fulfill what God has planned for our lives.**