

# The Book of Genesis

## Chapter Twenty

### *Abraham the Coward*

**Lesson Verse:** Proverbs 29:25

#### I. Lesson Introduction

- A. Courage is a priceless gift to have when needed, and not many of God's people have great courage when it is needed most.
- B. Abraham had times of great courage
  1. When he left his home for a land promised to him and his descendants
  2. When he organised his servants into an army to retrieve his nephew Lot and his family from five kings and their armies
- C. But Abraham lacked courage at other times – when he did not have comforting instructions from God
  1. Like when he fled Canaan for Egypt in the famine
  2. Like in this chapter
- D. Abraham is going to have to learn the hard way to trust God even when God does not specifically speak into a specific situation with clear instructions

#### II. Lesson

- A. **Abraham's Travel's** - \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 20:1)
  1. Abraham has travelled south from Hebron after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
  2. Gerar is in the south-western area of Canaan
  3. This city will be visited by Isaac in Gen 26
- B. **Abraham's** \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 20:2-7)
  1. It has been almost 14 years since Abraham has had to deal with fear
  2. He has forgotten what happened back when he travelled into Egypt in Gen 12:13-20
  3. Back then he feared a lot of things
    - a. The famine
    - b. Not knowing what to do
    - c. The Egyptians
  4. Now he is afraid of the Canaanites
  5. What is so interesting about Abraham's fear is that he definitely knew about this problem in him, so that he had his wife promise to cover that fear with her life! What a great wife!!!
  6. Abraham lets it be publically known that Sarah is just his sister
  7. Abimelech - two words
    - a. Abi – \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. Melech, Molech – \_\_\_\_\_
    - c. My Father, the King
    - d. It is a \_\_\_\_\_, like Pharaoh, and Caesar, Tsar, Kiser, etc
  8. Abimelech falls in love with Sarah
    - a. She is at this point \_\_\_\_\_ years old!
    - b. She must have been beautiful
    - c. She must have been godly (Ps 29:2) – godly women are very attractive to ungodly men – they drive men crazy!
    - d. She must have been very different than the Canaanites
      - 1) Lighter complexion
      - 2) Meek, and humble – not angry, contentious, brawlers, hyper-emotional like the pagan women (see 1Peter 3:1-6)
    - e. Abimelech just \_\_\_\_\_ Sarah – that's what men do when they see something beautiful

- 1) That's why it is wrong for a single Christian woman to doll herself up for public viewing
  - 2) Any normal man would think that she is for the "taking" and will try and "get" her
  - 3) A godly woman will be beautiful to everyone anyway – just don't advertise!
  - 4) That is not to say she should not be beautiful for her husband!
9. God \_\_\_\_\_ Abimelech
- a. By a serious dream
    - 1) God spoke to kings, and those in authority through dreams
      - a) Pharaoh (Gen 41)
      - b) Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 2 and 4)
      - c) Solomon (1Kgs 3)
      - d) The wise men (Mt 2)
      - e) Even when those kings were wicked!
    - 2) Dreams are usually the result of
      - a) Too much business (Eccl 5:3)
      - b) Overeating (Jude 8) – gluttons
    - 3) Sometimes God just speaks for His own purpose through dreams
      - a) Like with Joseph
  - b. Warns Abimelech
    - 1) "You are a dead man if you keep going without fear of Me"
    - 2) "The woman you have is another man's wife!"
      - a) In other words, You better make sure what you are doing is clear
      - b) That's why it is right for a marriage to be checked on
        - (i) Are you both legally single
        - (ii) Are you both of age
        - (iii) Do you have the permission of parents
        - (iv) Etc
    - 3) Abimelech reasons with God
      - a) I am a righteous man in this matter
      - b) I am only acting on what she said
    - 4) God knows, but wanted to make His point
      - a) Abimelech had integrity in his heart
      - b) God honours that – even among the unsaved
      - c) God held Abimelech back from sinning
        - (i) Thank God for His RESTRAINING Grace
        - (ii) Spiritual Laws – You reap what you sow
        - (iii) Pray that God helps you stay out of trouble
    - 5) The final decision is up to Abimelech – FREE-WILL (20:7)
      - a) "If thou restore her not..."
      - b) You shalt surely die – see again Gen 2:17

C. Abraham's \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 20:8-13)

1. Abimelech does not delay to act
2. Calls Abraham, and \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham
3. Abraham confesses
  - a. Thinks that all heathen are without God – that is a wrong prejudice
  - b. Thinks that everyone will want to take his wife from him
  - c. Justifies his statement
    - 1) Sarah IS his sister
    - 2) His HALF-sister

d. “Ever since I began to follow God, I asked my wife to protect me with this half-lie”

D. Abraham’s \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 20:14-18)

1. Evidently Abimelech accepts the explanation
2. Blesses Abraham with animals, and free passage
  - a. Not because Abraham EARNED it
  - b. But because Abraham was God’s Man (20:7)
  - c. The fear of God will help people respect God’s people
3. Sarah is rebuked by Abimelech (20:16)
  - a. Abraham has the responsibility to be the covering of the eyes of all around you
  - b. Nobody should be mistaken about your beauty any longer
  - c. You are a man’s wife
  - d. Abraham has enough money now to make sure your beauty is not so easily seen
  - e. Therefore, the real beauty of a woman should only be seen by her husband
  - f. Thus was SARAH rebuked – for not being
    - 1) More discreet
    - 2) More honest
4. Abraham prays for the household of Abimelech so that they could have children again
  - a. God had closed up the wombs of the women while Sarah was in Abimelech’s custody
  - b. God’s man has the power to pray and get answers to prayer
5. Abimelech, and all of the people of the area now knew:
  - a. Abraham was a \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Abraham was a \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. That Abraham’s God was \_\_\_\_\_ as well

### III. Applications

### IV. Study Questions