

Devotional Thoughts

Genesis 20:2

Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

Abraham's journey led him to the far south of the Promised Land to an area that had begun to be occupied by the Philistines. Because of the reputation of the Philistine people, Abraham and Sarah decided the best approach to guarantee their safety was to lie about their relationship. They would tell anyone who asked that they were brother and sister. This would ensure that Sarah was not taken and that Abe was not killed. It seems that their plan had backfired because when the Philistine king of Gerar saw Sarah, he took her into his harem and sought to make her his wife.

This passage serves as an illustration of many things, not the least of which it gives us a clear picture of what true repentance actually looks like.

It seems that the moment Abimelech took Sarah things started becoming difficult within his home. In addition to the fact that his family members became barren, he also began to have some very vivid and quite disturbing dreams. In one of these God spoke to Abimelech telling him to restore Sarah to her husband. The word restore means to [return or to turn back](#). It is a word that could be used synonymously with the word repentance. In essence God is calling the king to repent of his actions.

It might seem odd that this philistine king becomes a very clear and positive example of what true repentance actually looks like. We read that he was confronted by the Word of God, that he cried out to The Lord and that he changed his behavior. All three of these steps are a part of what real repentance looks like. Sadly we often find ourselves arguing with the Word or attempting to justify our actions instead of allowing the Word to change our living. In some cases we might even go as far as admitting that what we are doing is wrong and even cry out to God without being willing to make the appropriate changes.

Let's determine today to follow Abimelech's examine and make whatever changes the Word of God demands. After all, once he has repented, he began to receive the blessings of God.

Pastor Jim

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