



Faith & Fear – TEXT: Genesis 12:10-20; 20:1-18

Faith's CHALLENGES:

- 1) **CRISIS:** Genesis 12:10a
- 2) **Life's ORDINARY JOURNEYS:** Genesis 20:1
- 3) **BLESSINGS:** Genesis 12:11, 14

Fear's FAILURES:

- 1) **FEAR of CIRCUMSTANCES:** Genesis 12:10
- 2) **FEAR of MAN:** Genesis 12:12
- 3) **DECEIT and MANIPULATION of OTHERS:** Genesis 12:13
- 4) **CYNICISM and HARSH JUDGMENT of OTHERS:** Genesis 20:10-11
- 5) **RATIONALIZATION of sin:** Genesis 20:12
- 6) **PATTERNED sin (and BLAMING GOD):** Genesis 20:13
- 7) **INTER-GENERATIONAL sin:** Genesis 26:6–7 See also: vs. 1-11

Fear's CONSEQUENCES:

- 1) **FRUSTRATED plans to CONTROL the situation:** Genesis 12:15, 20:2
- 2) **Fearful FOOLISHNESS may be temporally rewarded THOUGH outside of God's WILL:** Genesis 12:16
- 3) **God's DISCIPLINE (even affecting OTHERS):** Gen. 12:17; 20:3, 7, 18
- 4) **SIN REVEALED:** Genesis 12:18-19a; 20:9; Luke 12:2; 1 Corinthians 4:5ab. See also: 1 Corinthians 3:13
- 5) **BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS & WITNESS:** Genesis 12:19b-20
 - a) **UNBELIEVERS can ACT more RIGHTEOUSLY than US:** Gen 20:4-5
 - b) **UNBELIEVERS can FEAR GOD more than US:** Genesis 20:8

Faith's OPPORTUNITIES:

- 1) **TRUST God's PATH:** Genesis 12:1; Psalm 23:3b. See also: Psalm 139:9-10; Isaiah 49:10; Colossians 1:9-12
- 2) **TRUST GOD'S PROVISION and PURPOSE:** Genesis 12:2
 - a) **God mercifully RESTORED Sarai to Abraham and provided RESOURCES:** Genesis 20:14
 - b) **God provided a SAFE DWELLING PLACE:** Genesis 20:15
 - c) **God graciously VINDICATED SARAI:** Genesis 20:16
 - d) **God BLESSED Abimelech through Abraham:** Genesis 20:17
 - e) **Don't CONFUSE God's MERCY with His AFFIRMATION!**
- 3) **TRUST GOD'S PROTECTION:** Genesis 12:3a
 - a) **God PROTECTED Sarai (and Abraham's legacy):** Genesis 20:6
 - b) **DON'T fear MAN:** Proverbs 29:25
 - c) **DO fear GOD:** Luke 12:4–5. See: Ps 111:10; Prov 1:7, 9:10
 - d) **Let God be your SHIELD:** Genesis 15:1. See: Psalm 3:3, 28:7
 - e) **Be CONFIDENT in God's PROTECTION:** Deut. 31:6 See: Heb 13:6
- 4) **Trust God's PLAN:** Genesis 12:3b
 - a) **To SAVE us through Abraham's OFFSPRING:** Hebrews 2:14–16
 - b) **To MAKE US into ABRAHAM'S spiritual DESCENDANTS and JOINT HEIRS:** Galatians 3:14, 29. See also: 3:7-9
 - c) **To BRING us into RELATIONSHIP with God the FATHER through His INDWELLING SPIRIT:** Romans 8:14–15
 - d) **To FILL our LIVES with POWER, LOVE and HOLINESS:** 2 Tim. 1:7
 - e) **To EMPOWER our WITNESS:** Acts 1:8

"Gospel In Life" questions for REFLECTION & APPLICATION

- 1) **BELIEVE:** WHAT TRUTHS did God REVEAL to me through His Word today about HIM and/or MYSELF?
- 2) **ASSESS:** HOW do these truths ENCOURAGE and/or CHALLENGE (convict) ME?
- 3) **PROCESS:** WHY is this message GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL) to ME today? (CONNECT the GOSPEL story to MY present story)
- 4) **CHANGE:** WHERE will I APPLY (BELIEVE, REPENT, DO) this message in MY own life this week?
- 5) **PROCLAIM:** WHO does God want ME to share these truths with?
- 6) **PREPARE for NEXT WEEK:** Read Genesis 13:1-18