

BUT GOD!

SERIES: But God...

GENESIS 20:1-17 NIV

- 1 Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar,
- 2 and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." Then Abimelech king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her.
- 3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream one night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman."
- 4 Now Abimelech had not gone near her, so he said, "LORD, will you destroy an innocent nation?"
- 5 Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister,' and didn't she also say, 'He is my brother'? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands."
- 6 Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her.
- 7 Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all yours will die."
- 8 Early the next morning Abimelech summoned all his officials, and when he told them all that had happened, they were very much afraid.
- 9 Then Abimelech called Abraham in and said, "What have you done to us? How have I wronged you that you have brought such great guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that should not be done."
- 10 And Abimelech asked Abraham, "What was your reason for doing this?"
- 11 Abraham replied, "I said to myself, 'There is surely no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.'
- 12 Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife.
- 13 And when God had me wander from my father's household, I said to her, 'This is how you can show your love to me: Everywhere we go, say of me, "He is my brother." ' "
- 14 Then Abimelech brought sheep and cattle and male and female slaves and gave them to Abraham, and he returned Sarah his wife to him.
- 15 And Abimelech said, "My land is before you; live wherever you like."
- 16 To Sarah he said, "I am giving your brother a thousand shekels of silver. This is to cover the offense against you before all who are with you; you are completely vindicated."
- 17 Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife and his slave girls so they could have children again,

18 for the LORD had closed up every womb in Abimelech's household because of Abraham's wife Sarah.

I. A REPREHENSIBLE SIN (v. 11)

Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV - 5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

(vs. 2-3, 7)

We either bring shame or fame to the name of God.

(v. 16)

Men tend to relate to women either as...

1. Protector
2. Predator

II. A REPEATED SIN (v. 1; Gen. 12:10-20)

Genesis 12:10-20 - 10 Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe. 11 As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are. 12 When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live. 13 Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you." 14 When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that she was a very beautiful woman. 15 And when Pharaoh's officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace. 16 He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, menservants and maidservants, and camels. 17 But the LORD inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai. 18 So Pharaoh summoned Abram. "What have you done to me?" he said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? 19 Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!" 20 Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.

Dormant → Dominant → Destructive

Ways to deal with old sins that keep popping up

1. Confess the sin to God (1 Jn. 1:19)
2. Condemn the sin before God (Rom. 8:13 GNV)
3. Commit your life to God (1 Cor. 10:13 MT)

1 John 1:9-10 – 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

Romans 8:13 GNV - For if you live according to your human nature, you are going to die; but if by the Spirit you put to death your sinful actions, you will live.

1 Corinthians 10:13 MT - No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.

Lessons to Learn

1. The strongest Christ is not above the possibility of sin. (1 Cor. 10:12 MT)
2. We usually compromise when we are in compromise territory.

The moment you think you are not vulnerable is the moment that you are most vulnerable.

3. Some sins have to be dealt with in order to go to the next level. (Gen. 21:1-2 NIV)

1 Corinthians 10:12 MT – Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence.

Genesis 21:1-2 NIV - **1** Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. **2** Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him

III. A REDEEMED SIN

(v. 20:3)