Faithless Man... Faithful God
Genesis 12:10-20
Sermon Outline

A. Faith Tested (vs. 10):

1. Now there was – The famine was so severe that it seems like it was going to last a long time.
2. Went down - Abram made a decision to leave the hill country, and continuously with no plans to stop anywhere, went to a place he felt can endlessly take care of everyone.
3. Went down to Egypt – Abram knew exactly where he was going when he started out on the trip.
4. Sojourn – Abram decided to remain among the Egyptians because of their endless supply of resources.
5. Famine was severe – The famine was a very heavy burden to bear since Abram had a large group of people and lots of animals. It was very hard to sustain everyone in the famine.

B. God’s Promises Forgotten (vs. 11-13):

1. It came about – The thought that Abram had as he came near to Egypt was going to remain something he feared would take place the entire time he is in Egypt.
   a) Abram focused on protecting himself rather than his own wife.
2. Came near – The closer Abram got to Egypt is the more he felt a need to talk with Sarah about his fears.
   a) Abram fears two things: (1) Sarai’s beauty will draw the attention of powerful men (12:11–12), and (2) since these men do not abide by the ethic of Abram’s God, they will murder him and take her for a wife (20:11). [1]
3. Said – Abram verbalized his fears to Sarah because it was something he was thinking about for some time.
   a) There are several things that leads to bad decisions:
4. Behold – Abram had one specific thing on his mind as he came near Egypt.
5. I know - Abram can distinguish from among the other women that Sarah would stand out and gain the attention of Pharaoh who like beautiful women.
6. You are a beautiful woman – Sarah’s beauty is always this way no matter how mature she becomes.

   a) Abram’s fear led him to use common sense to resolve the issues he faced (Proverbs 3:5-6; Ephesians 4:17-21).

7. When the Egyptians see Sarah - When the Egyptians come to a complete understanding of how beautiful Sarah is they will not stop examining her until they report her to Pharaoh.
8. They will say - They will be completely determined to tell Pharaoh that Sarah is Abram’s wife. Since Pharaoh will be determined to take Sarah, Abram will be killed.
9. Kill – Because people will report Sarah to Pharaoh Abram will be violently slaughtered.
10. Live - The Egyptians will endlessly bless Sarah’s life so that she enjoys her life to the fullness since she will be in the presence of Pharaoh.
11. Please say – Abram urgently begs Sarah to say that she is his sister.
12. Go well with me – Abram will prosper in the land and be able to sustain his relationship with God. Abram seems to feel that he needs to come up with a solution that keeps him alive so that God’s covenant continues.
13. I may live on account - Abram believes that this life would be fully protected, his preservation would lead to prosperity for everyone (basically no one can harm him or anyone else) because Pharaoh has Sarah as his wife.

C. A Lack of Faith Leads to Failure (vs. 14-16):
1. It came about – Abram’s journey is not going to stop until he arrives in Egypt. He is determined to go to Egypt.
2. Came into Egypt, Egyptians saw – As soon as Abram entered Egypt the Egyptians took notice of Sarah’s beauty. What they examined and saw they were convinced that Sarah would be pleasing to Pharaoh.
3. Egyptians saw – Abram said she was beautiful but the Egyptians said she was ‘very beautiful’. This is a time when Sarah is in her sixties.
4. Pharaoh’s officials praised her - The Egyptians publically made delightful highly emotional comments about Sarah’s beauty to Pharaoh.
5. She was taken to Pharaoh - The Egyptians did not ask Abram’s permission and Abram did not put up a fight. He told them she was his sister (vs. 18-19). They were not going to stop until she was in the presence of Pharaoh.
6. Treated Abram well; acceptable, pleasant or well – Abram, because of Sarah, prospered and experienced protection while in the Egypt because Sarah was with Pharaoh. This was going to be Abram’s experience from this point forward.
7. Gave, to be – Abram did not just prosper on this own (meaning he was able to freely trade, get water, take care of his livestock and caravan of people), he was endlessly provided gifts by Pharaoh and he took all of the gifts.

D. God’s Faithfulness Sustains Us (vs. 17-19):

1. The Lord – With Abram totally sold out to this lifestyle God steps in.
2. The Lord – Notice it says the ‘the Lord’ rather than God. This is because God’s covenant with Abram was unconditional when it began and it continuously totally depends on His power and grace. The same at Calvary.
3. The Lord – The Lord was still in control because He is always the person who has all authority and He genuinely seeks to maintain His relationship with us.
4. Struck – The Lord uses His power and authority to touch Pharaoh and his house with disease. This touch is a sign that God views Pharaoh as guilty deserving punishment.
5. Great plague – The plague had a tremendous impact on Pharaoh and on his household. Everything came to a holt.
a) In eight or nine generations, there might be from half a million to a million of inhabitants in Egypt, if we allow five daughters as the average of a family. (from Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by Biblesoft).

6. Pharaoh called Abram – This is the first time Abram is recognized. It took God to get Abram to bear his responsibilities.

7. Pharaoh called Abram – Pharaoh with no end in sight made a sustained shout specifically requesting Abram. It is clear that Pharaoh is in a desperate situation.

8. Said – What Pharaoh was saying to Abram he did not plan on stop saying until the matter was handled.

9. You have done to me; to do - Pharaoh saw his condition as a permanent situation unless something was done.

a) Egyptian ethics emphasized the importance of absolute truthfulness, and Abram was put in the uncomfortable position of being exposed as a liar. (NASU study notes)

10. You have done to me; to do - Pharaoh believed that the completed state of all the plagues was not due to his actions (he never asked Abram’s permission to take Sarah) it was because Abram acted in this way with a deep commitment to not change his story.

11. You have done to me; to do - The community, world suffers because of our lack of faith or our misguided faith.

12. You did not tell – Abram purposefully did not bring to light, expose that Sarah was his wife. Pharaoh says that Abram purposefully concealed that information. Example – Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah; it was not the sinners that destroyed the city it was the fact that Abraham could not find ten righteous people.

13. Why did you say she is my sister - The perfect active means that Abram was in a completely set state – meaning he was determined to communicate continuously that Sarah was his sister.

14. Took her – Abram was commanded to be in continuous motion of taking Sarah out of the presence of Pharaoh until she was completely gone.

15. Go – Abram is commanded to make this everything he does so that it totally occupies his life in getting out of Egypt.

16. Go, walked together – This command implies that this is the righteous
thing to do and it is Abram’s righteous lifestyle to take care of Sarah as his wife.

E. **God Faithfulness Restores Us (vs. 20):**

1. Pharaoh commands his men – Pharaoh gave a military order to his soldiers to not stop until Abram and his caravan had left Egypt.
2. Concerning Abram – These men must do nothing else but get Abram out of Egypt.
3. Escorted him away – Abram was given a clear direction to leave Egypt with the help of the soldiers and the friendly care and concern of Pharaoh.
4. All he had – The soldiers needed to make sure that all that God blessed Abram with, from the time he came into Egypt and with the gifts Pharaoh now gives him, all leaves with him. Pharaoh wanted God to remove the plague so he did all he could to please God.