

A Faith & Fear Story from the Father of God's People Genesis 12-22

Genesis 12:1-5a

Fear – God said to pick up and move to a place He would reveal later!

Faith – Abram obeyed, at 75 yrs old, & he trusted God to lead the way!

Would we have responded the same way if God said these words to us?

Genesis 12:10-13

Fear – There was a severe famine in the land! What should Abram do?

Fear – B/c of his wife's beauty Abram feared for his own life, so he lied!

Men, what would we have done if faced with the same dilemma?

Genesis 13:2-12

Fear – The land could not support Abram and Lot dwelling together!

Faith – Abram trusted God to be faithful, so he let Lot choose first!

Would we have been willing to let Lot have first choice of the land?

Genesis 14:11-16

Fear – Lot was captured by foreign armies, leaving Abram conflicted!

Faith – Abram put his family first & used his own resources to save them!

What are we willing to lose to protect our family from harm?

Genesis 15:1-8

Fear – How could Abram's reward be truly great if he has no descendants?

Fear – Abram knew he was only a sojourner in the land at this point! Will it ever truly belong to him? How could he be sure?

How often does fear of the unknown, & an unforeseen future, consume us?

Genesis 16:1-5

Fear – At what point do we take things into our own hands?

Fear – "Happy wife, happy life!"

Do we ever feel stuck? Where do we turn? How do we lead well?

Genesis 17:1-8, 15-19a

Fear – Can a 100 yr old man & a 90 yr old woman even have a child?

Fear – God, why not just use Ishmael as fulfillment of your promise?

How often do we try to tell God what He can/cannot or should/should not do?

Genesis 21:1-7

Faith – Abraham (name change) believed God & God proved Himself faithful

Faith – Abraham also kept his side of the covenant by circumcising Isaac!

Are we willing to keep our commitments to God no matter what happens?

Genesis 22:1-3

Fear – Excuse me... You want me to do what?

Faith – Abraham did as God had asked, even though it made no sense!

Will we obey God, even when it doesn't seem to make any sense to us?

Genesis 22:9-14

*Fear – There is a fear that is good - the fear of God! That He will provide!

Faith – Faith is believing God no matter how dire our circumstances!

Do we have a faith amidst our fears, b/c the fear of the Lord is greater?

Some may say Abraham was a terrible father because he almost sacrificed his own son, but Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness!

What better gift can a father pass down to his children than to model great faith for them? It's easy to say the right words, it's hard to live the right way.

Abraham was far from perfect! The wrong kind of fear often ruled his heart, but amidst those fears, a fear of the Lord emerged & grew into a strong faith!

Faith and fear are not mutually exclusive! They can exist together!

The question is, which one rules your heart & takes hold of your life?

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