



“Here I Go Again...that Same Old Sin”

Genesis 20:1-18

Followers of God *do* sin and there are sins that each of us seem prone to repeat. Genesis 20:2

- God is all about truth. John 14:6; 14:17; James 1:18 God hates lies. Proverbs 12:22
- Decades have passed, yet Sarah & Abraham are telling the same lie with the same bad result.

“But God” - God's interventions make it clear that man can't truncate His will. Genesis 20:3-7

- God clearly communicates to Abimelech that He is omniscient and omnipotent. 20:6
- Abraham's sin has made him look weak and foolish but God restores his status. 20:7; Ps. 127:1,2

Sadly, pagan King Abimelech demonstrates more indicators of faith than Abraham does. Gen. 20:8-10

- Abimelech responds with urgency & confronts Abraham about the motive & impact of his sin.
- Evaluation time: *“...What have you encountered, that you have done this thing?”* 20:10

Abraham exposes the root of his reoccurring sin - *“they will kill me because of my wife.”* Gen. 20:11-13

- Abraham's fear is driven by circumstances he can't control - His wife's beauty and the king's lust.
- Early in life, out of our desperation to survive, we can be driven to compromise with evil.

God remains gracious to Abraham even though his repeated failures made a mess of things. Gen. 20:14-16

- This doesn't make sense - Abraham fails big-time yet ends up receiving considerable wealth.
- Abraham's failure is never brought up again... instead of shame, we only find honor for his faith.

Further Study and Pondering:

1. Explain a time when someone's lie has hurt you? What are reasons we sometimes resort to lying?
2. Share a “But God” intervention in your life. Romans 5:6-8 Take time to say thanks for His rescue.
3. Why do you think God reestablished Abraham's status after the mess he made? Genesis 20:7
4. Explain as best you can what drove Abraham's reoccurring sin pattern. Why did he conclude it was necessary to repeatedly lie? What advice would you have given him if you were there?
5. Can you identify a compromise with sin that you have embraced in order to survive? What is at the root of this sinful pattern/what drives it? Tell God you know that He will step in to rescue you.
6. Further Study - Our sin puts us & others in harm's way but God loves to restore us. (Psalm 139:23-24; Galatians 6:7-8; Psalm 32:1-5; Hebrews 12:4-11; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 John 1:5-10; Isaiah 1:18-20)
7. We're all sinners who have no hope apart from God's grace. Is there someone in your life who needs to experience God's grace through you? Do you need to forgive them? - Point them to God's grace?

God's Grace - “Nothing but the Blood of Jesus”