

Life Lesson 8
Abraham in Egypt
Text: Genesis 12:10-20

Introduction

Abram, or Abraham, was a friend of God. Did that make him perfect? No, Romans 3:23 says that *all* have sinned. Not one single person has ever been good enough for God. Only the Lord Jesus Christ lived a perfect life. Abram, although he loved God, was still a sinner. In our story today we will learn about a bad thing he did, and the sad consequences that happened because of his sin.

The Story

Abram and Sarai, his wife, left their home and came to live in the land God promised to them and to their children. All went well for a while and Abram became wealthy. Then trouble came. A great famine came on the land. That means there wasn't enough rain for the crops to grow. The grass died, so the animals didn't have enough to eat. Abram began to worry.

Should he have worried? After all, the Almighty God who is in charge of the weather and of the whole universe was his friend. God promised to take care of Abram, and so far He had done a great God. This time, though, Abram didn't trust God to take care of him. He thought he better take care of things himself.

Abram heard there was food in the land of Egypt, so they packed up and moved to Egypt. That was bad enough – to be in a place where God didn't want them to go. There trouble was just beginning, though.

Sarai, his wife, was a beautiful lady. She was so gorgeous that the men of Egypt noticed her. Abram began to worry again.

"I know just what will happen," he told Sarai. "One of these pagan Egyptians will see you

and decide to marry you. He'll kill me so I won't be in the way. Don't tell anyone I'm your husband. Just say I'm your brother. That way I'll be safe."

Well, maybe he would be safe, but what about poor Sarai? You can see how Abram went on from the sin of not trusting God and sinned by being selfish.

The very thing Abram feared came about. One of Pharaoh's men saw Sarai and noticed her great beauty. He told Pharaoh about her and the great Egyptian king decided to take her for his wife.

Abram probably gave her up for lost. Pharaoh didn't believe God. He didn't care if what he was doing was right or wrong. There was nothing Abram could do to get her back. He had forgotten that God is a mighty god, much greater even than the powerful Pharaoh. God was watching out for Sarai, even if Abram wasn't. God struck Pharaoh and all his household with a great sickness. We don't know how God told Pharaoh that Sarai was the cause. We do know that Pharaoh found out what Abram had done and called him before the throne.

"Why didn't you tell me that she is your wife?" he asked Abram. "I almost married her. Take her and get out of my country."

He not only let Sarai go, he sent men to make sure they left Egypt.

Abram had really blown it. His lack of trust got him into the mess, and his selfishness had kept him in trouble. After he left Egypt, though, he repented. He went back to the place where he had built an altar to God. He worshiped God there and asked for forgiveness.

The Life Lesson

Everyone sins, even Christians who love the Lord. There's a difference between saved people and lost people, though. Christians don't want to sin. When they do, God won't let them keep it up. He sends trouble (chastisement) until they come to repentance. He makes them sorry

and they turn back to Him.

In I John 1:9 we read that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We learned from Abram that it isn't worthwhile to sin. The consequences are too great! One sin always leads to more sins. When we do sin, we need to come before God in repentance and ask Him for forgiveness. We have His promise that He will be faithful to forgive us.

Review Questions

What is a famine like?

It doesn't rain and the crops don't grow.

What did Abram do when there was a famine in the land?

Instead of trusting God he went to Egypt.

Who was Abram's wife?

Sarai, later called Sarah.

What did Sarai look like?

She was beautiful.

Why did Abram tell Sarai to pretend they weren't married?

He was afraid someone would kill him and marry Sarai.

Who took Sarai to be his wife?

Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

How did God protect Sarai?

He made Pharaoh and all his household sick.

What did Pharaoh do to Abram and Sarai?

He sent them out of the country.

What did Abram do after he had sinned?

He repented and went back to the altar and made a sacrifice.

What should we do if we sin?

We should ask God for forgiveness.