

The Conflict of Faith

Genesis 12:10-13:1 Sunday AM, March 9, 2025

Prelude – Scripture: Genesis 12:10-13:1 (NASB95) Now there was a famine in the land; so Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. 11 It came about when he came near to Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, “See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman; 12 and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife’; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. 13 “Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you.” 14 It came about when Abram came into Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. 15 Pharaoh’s officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house. 16 Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake; and gave him sheep and oxen and donkeys and male and female servants and female donkeys and camels. 17 But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife. 18 Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? 19 “Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her and go.” 20 Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they escorted him away, with his wife and all that belonged to him. 1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, he and his wife and all that belonged to him, and Lot with him.

Abraham. Where do your thoughts go? Most don’t have to think too hard before we think of God’s call to offer up his only son as a sacrifice. What do you think about that? Do you find it honorable? For years, the focus among God’s people has been on Abraham’s incredible trust in God, his obedience to God, and God’s provision to keep Abraham from killing Isaac. However, another vein asks, “How could God ask Abraham to do this thing?” “How can I believe in a God who would test His people in this way?” This is one of the reasons we are coming back to our study in Abraham. Abraham was known as a man of faith. What exactly IS faith? What motivates faith and does faith lead to good or bad? What do we REALLY believe regardless of our words and actions? These and many other questions can be asked, but we must make choices. Those choices form from desires and outcomes and come in the form of thoughts and words. Whose words do you follow? Abraham followed God’s words. We look at Abraham as part of God’s intent for us to see His interaction with mankind throughout history, but also to learn what it means to live a life of faith in God. To come close to the One in whose image we are made IS to be judged by Him because He is eternal and holy, and we are neither eternal nor holy. But fellowship with God is the only place where we find eternal hope, and therefore, we are to look to Him for life. Remember Jesus’ words from John 5:24. **“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”** Look to God, Listen to God. Like Abraham, follow His words—they lead to life.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): The Master Has Come**

What led Abram forward? God’s Call accompanied by God’s Promises. These promises did not promise an easy, pain-free life, but Matthews noted, God’s promises were **an avalanche of blessing cascading in wave after wave on the patriarch and his children yet to come.** Matthews, p. 105 God graciously pours blessing on His creation, and those awakened to see His work see blessings before, around, and ahead of them. Do you see God’s gracious blessings? To truly see God’s grace to you, you must start with His work to securely reconcile you to God. Church, sing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Treasure this for life now and for eternity.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Before the Throne of God Above**

***Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn D.**

Choir: Come Thou Fount

Scripture: Psalm 42–43 (NASB95) For the choir director. A Maskil of the sons of Korah. 1 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God? 3 My tears have been my food day and night, While they say to me all day long, “Where is your God?” 4 These things I remember and I pour out my soul within me. For I used to go along with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God, With the voice of joy and thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival. 5 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him For the help of His presence. 6 O my God, my soul is in despair within me; Therefore I remember You from the land of the Jordan And the peaks of Hermon, from Mount Mizar. 7 Deep calls to deep at the sound of Your waterfalls; All Your breakers and Your waves have rolled over me. 8 The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime; And His song will be with me in the night, A prayer to the God of my life. 9 I will say to God my rock, “Why have You forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?” 10 As a shattering of my bones, my adversaries revile me, While they say to me all day long, “Where is your God?” 11 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God. 1 Vindicate me, O God, and plead my case against an ungodly nation; O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man! 2 For You are the God of my strength; why have You rejected me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? 3 O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your dwelling places. 4 Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; And upon the lyre I shall praise You, O God, my God. 5 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why are you disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.

Offering: *Doxology:

Our passage today adds a wrinkle to our example of faith. Crisis leads to leaving the promised land for Egypt and fear of death leads to a deceitful plan to stay alive. The Lord is mentioned once in this passage and it is with regard to judgment. Of Abraham? No. Pharaoh. Pharaoh? Why, what did he do wrong? There are many things to contemplate, but contemplate God’s gracious protection of Abraham in line with His promises. Why gracious? Because Abraham did NOT deserve this protection. Sing God’s grace to underserving ones like you and me.

***Hymn #219 (Red): Grace ‘Tis a Charming Sound**

You may be seated. Whatever we do with this passage, this event is not a holy home run. This leaves us unsettled with a complexity of questions. Should we make judgment of Abraham and then run to places where he seems to shine? No, we look not merely for an example of faith, but for a life of faith. That faith is not focused on how many times we struggle or sin, but on the One who promises and is mercifully faithful to those promises, providing for those who trust in Him so they would be freed from living by their fears and desires and can see Him. As you listen today, praise God for His tender mercies.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Mercies Anew**

Message: Roots of Saving Faith Pt. 2 Gen. 12:1-9

Look hard at Abram’s example today and see yourself in the face of fear. Ask God to help you submit to His process of teaching you to trust Him and follow His Word in times of pressure and fear, through even sin and failure. Faith looks not at yourself, but to God’s gracious dealings in the face of your wandering heart. Join the choir asking God to tune your heart to sing His grace.

***Hymn #2 (Powerpoint): Come Thou Fount *Prayer**