



Discussion Questions • Abbotsford

Title of Sermon: Second Verse Same as the First

Passage: Genesis 20:1-21:7 NIV

Intro -

1. Do you have any “consumer horror stories” where you bought something (or tried to buy something) but were faced with ridiculous obstacles or let-downs? Describe the worst one, but try to leave names out of it.
2. Describe an instance when you have trusted someone to do something for you and they have failed repeatedly to do it. How did you respond? How should you have responded?

Sermon Points -

1. The Perpetual Sin of Abraham
 - a. Read Genesis 12:10-20 and then read Genesis 20:1-18. What is similar in these passages? What is different?
 - b. Why do you think Abraham used the same tactic in Genesis 20 (calling his wife his sister) with Abimelech that he used with Pharaoh in Genesis 12? What was motivating him? Why didn't he learn the lesson the first time around?
 - c. What are some perpetual sins that Christians tend to struggle with?
 - i. What advice would you give to those struggling with those sins regarding how to avoid them?
 - ii. Why do we struggle so much with committing the same sins over and over again?
 - d. In Genesis 20:6, God tells Abimelech that he did not let the king touch Sarah and sin against him. Does this counteract our beliefs about free will? How could God stop this king from sinning and not stop others from doing so?
2. The Persistent Grace of God
 - a. When you read Abraham's excuses for his actions in Genesis 20:11-13, how do you think God should react?
 - i. Why does God lavish gifts on Abraham through Abimelech and ultimately keep his promise to provide him a son?
 - ii. Can you point to other places in Scripture where this kind of grace is shown to the undeserving?



- b. Where have you seen the persistent grace of God in your own life?
 - i. Why does God show this kind of persistent grace to us instead of just giving up on us when we sin against him?
 - ii. Does he show grace when we don't repent? If not, what does repentance require?
- c. So far, how much of God's plan for Abraham's life has Abraham helped to fulfill?
 - i. What is the significance of the fact that Abraham was asleep when God made the covenant with him in Genesis 15?
 - ii. What does this mean for us as we "by faith" inherit the covenant made with Abraham?
- d. How does this entire story make you feel about God?
 - i. How does the description of God's covenant love in Hosea 11 make you feel about God?
 - ii. How should one rightly respond to the grace on display in these passages?

Wrap Up and Prayer

From your discussion, what resonated with you individually or as a group? Was there anything not discussed that stuck out to you from the sermon? Pray for each other along with other requests.

Benediction - 2 Peter 3:18 NIV

"(May you) grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."