



“Faith Fail”

The Fear Factor
Genesis 20:8-18

It undermines Our :

I. Compassion – “done deeds unto me...not to be done” (vs. 8-10)

Being honest about our :

A. Process – “*what hast thou done unto us*”

B. Pride – “*what have I offended thee*”

C. Prejudice – “*what sawest thou*”

II. Confidence – “Because I thought...not in this place” (vs. 11-14)

Being sure of God’s:

A. Protection – “*the fear of God is not in this place*”

B. Provision - “*daughter of my father, ...she became my wife*”

C. Providence - “*God caused me to wander from my father’s*”

III. Connection - “So Abraham prayed unto God” (vs. 15-18)

Being committed to:

A. Home – “*restored him Sarah his wife*”

B. Honesty – “*thus she was reproved*”

C. Health – “*God healed Abimelech, his wife...maidservants*”

Sentence Sermon:

“When faith is present it increases our compassion, confidence & connection .”

Additional Verses

- **Genesis 12:11-20**
- **Romans 6:14-23**
- **Galatians 5:16, 25; 6:7**
- **Psalms 26:2-3; 36:1; 139:23-24**
- **Matthew 7:1-5**
- **Acts 18:10**
- **Philippians 4:6**
- **I Peter 5:7**
- **I Corinthians 10:12**
- **John 8:44; 14:6; 16:13**
- **Titus 1:2**
- **II Timothy 2:15**
- **Zechariah 13:9**

Questions to Ponder:

- 1. Who is the central character of this passage?
- 2. What does verse 8 tell us about Abimelech?
- 3. Why do you think it says “all these things in their ears?”
- 4. What are Abimelech’s three questions for Abraham?
- 5. What are the answers to each of these questions?
- 6. Why did Abraham think the fear of the Lord was not there?
- 7. Was it reasonable for Abraham to think they would slay him?
- 8. Would you say Abraham gives a reason or an excuse for his actions? Why do you think that?
- 9. Why did Abimelech do so much in restoring Sarah?
- 10. What do you think “a covering of the eyes” means?
- 11. Why were the events a reproving of Sarah?

- 12. What is the significance of verses 17-18?

INTRO:

NEWS FLASH: A Study in Livescience found that life on Earth could be possible for at least 1.75 billion years and possibly 3.25 billion years....So stop worrying about that ...nothing to fear here.

ISNT it crazy the things people worry about or have fears of?

A few years ago a High [School](#) freshman won first prize at the Greater Idaho Falls Science Fair by urging people to sign a petition demanding strict control or total elimination of the chemical "Dihydrogen monoxide" because:

1. It was known to cause [excessive sweating](#) and vomiting.
2. It was a major component in acid rain.
3. It could cause severe burns in its gaseous state.
4. Accidental inhalation could kill you.
5. It contributed to erosion.
6. It decreased the effectiveness of automobile brakes.
7. It had been found in tumors of terminal cancer patients.

He asked 50 people if they support a ban. 43 said yes. **Six** were undecided. But **only one knew** that the chemical was ... water.

Many times our fears and worries are based upon imperfect information...

All worry and fear are based upon facts that don't tell the whole story.

Does anybody know what the most common Biblical command in Scripture is? What command occurs the most often in Scripture? It is: "***Do not be afraid***"

Does anybody have an idea how many times that command occurs in the Bible? **365 times** – one command for each day of the year.

Or, as Peter wrote: Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

God does not tell us our fears are unfounded. They fail to take into account one significant factor... GOD

As one person put it: "Faith does not blind the eyes. It looks the difficulties square in the face and heaps them to one side of the balances. On the other side, it puts, simply and solely--GOD."

The problem, of course... is that even the most powerful believer struggles with fear. How many of you have struggled with fear and anxiety? How many of you have struggled with these feelings over the past year?

Top Ten Fears :

10. Dentist
9. Dogs
8. Flying
7. Thunder/ Lightning/ Weather
6. The Dark
5. Heights
4. People (Social/ Speaking)
3. Space Restriction/ No Escape
2. Spiders
1. Snakes

Others mentioned: Loneliness, Sickness, Financial Crisis,
Death

V. 8

- So Abimelech = because Abraham lied and because God told him he was a dead man
- Arose early = took this seriously
- Told all these things in their hearing = preaching the Word of God ...not quite the way God intends but all the same...also showing some accountability and not hiding what was wrong and what needed to be done.
- The men were greatly frightened = what were they afraid of? ...God?! Then Abraham was wrong at the onset of this story ...cp. With verse 11

v.9

- *What have you done to us = Abimelech letting Abraham know that he has caused harm to others, Abimelech and his people with his little sin.*
- *What have I offended thee = what did I do to deserve this???* *What goes around comes around but what did I do to start all this?*
- *You have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin = you are hurting me and all those I lead and serve and care about*
- *You have done deeds unto me that ought not to be done = Abraham had caused such harm that Abimilech would not wish on his enemies much less his friends.*

V. 10

- *What sawest thou, that thou has done this thing = What were you looking at or what were you thinking???*

V.11

- Because I thought = thinkin is where it all starts...stinkin thinkin leads to stinkin sinkin.
- Surely the fear of God is not in this place = do we underestimate others faith? Does God not have people in every place? **Remember Acts 18:10 records God's message when Paul feared the people of Corinth.**
- They will slay me = focus on self and not God's promise
- For my wife's sake = my wife is the one to really blame...she is a burden to me...if only she would be uglier???

V. 12

- And yet indeed = "technically" or virtually or sort of or if you look at it in a certain way. Word games !!
- She is my sister = while he is speaking this he must be thinking how weak an argument he is putting up
- She is the daughter of my father = that's my father and her father but not her mother and my mother
- She became my wife = I don't know how it happened but it did....now I'm stuck with her

V. 13

- And it came to pass = outside of my doing
- When God caused me to wander = he makes it sound like a bad thing...God calls us = it's a good thing...no, it's a GREAT thing !
- From my fathers house = that would be Sarah's father too.
- And I said to her = now Abraham gets to his part in it.
- At every place whither we shall come = not if it seems that the fear of God is not in a place or not ...but every place
- Say of me, He is my brother = deceive for me with a half truth.

V. 14

- And Abimelech took = Abimelech takes the initiative to fix what Abraham messed up. He goes the extra mile
- And restored him Sarah his wife = also known as his sister

V. 15

- And Abimelech said = Not only generous in deed but in words

- Dwell where it pleases you = you can have some of my land

V. 16

- I have given thy brother = a little tweak
- A thousand pieces of silver = heavy price
- He is to thee a covering of the eyes = ??
- Thus she was reproved = chastened

V. 17

- Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed = God gives His people special access to His healing power and the privilege to pray on behalf of others.
- And they bare children = the control of who gets children is in the hand of the Lord. To have children is a blessing and to be kept from it is sadness.

V. 18

- Had fast closed up all the wombs = The Lord can close and open wombs
- Because of Sarah Abraham's wife = not sister but they are married and that is sacred to God and He defends and is serious about such.