Trusting God with the Truth

Genesis 12:10 – 13:4

Bethel Community Church

Pastor Brad Belcher, Senior Pastor
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Genesis 12:10 – 13:4

10 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 When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, “I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, 12 and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. 13 Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake.” -
14 When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. 15 And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. 16 And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels. 17 But the Lord afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.
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18 So 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 And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had. 13:1 So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb.
2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. 3 And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, 4 to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the Lord. (ESV)
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I. Sometimes God will use sovereign circumstances to guide us in a new direction.

10 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.
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II. We can **trust** God in the midst of our **circumstances**.

A. We don’t need to **speculate** about the **future**.

11 When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, 12 and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife. 'Then they will kill me, but they will let you live."
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II. We can trust God in the midst of our circumstances.

B. We don’t need to manipulate our circumstances.

13 Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake.”

- Psalm 101:7 No one who practices deceit shall dwell in my house; no one who utters lies shall continue before my eyes.
III. We risk **everything** when we don’t **trust** God with the **truth**.

A. We put our **family** at risk.

14 When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. 15 And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was **taken** into Pharaoh's house.
III. We risk **everything** when we don’t **trust** God with the **truth**.

B. We put the **resources** of others at risk.

16 And for her sake **he dealt well** with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.
III. We risk everything when we don’t trust God with the truth.

C. We put other people at risk.

17 But the Lord afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.
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III. We risk **everything** when we don’t **trust** God with the **truth**.

D. We put our **relationships** at risk.

18 So 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."
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III. We risk everything when we don’t trust God with the truth.

E. We put our future at risk.

20 And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.
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III. We risk **everything** when we don’t **trust** God with the **truth**.

F. We **destroy** our **testimony**.

- *Proverbs 12:22* Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight.
- *Ephesians 4:25* Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.
IV. We need to continue to **call** on the **name** of the Lord.

It is only by God’s grace:

A. That we **have** what we **have**.

1 So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb. 2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.
IV. We need to continue to call on the name of the Lord.

It is only by God’s grace:

B. That we have a place to go.

3 And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai,
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IV. We need to continue to call on the name of the Lord.
It is only by God’s grace:

C. That we can still worship him.

4 to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the Lord.

• Isaiah 55:6 "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
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IV. We need to continue to call on the name of the Lord.

It is only by God’s grace:

C. That we can still worship him.

4 to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the Lord.

- Psalm 32:6 Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
IV. We need to continue to call on the name of the Lord.
It is only by God’s grace:
C. That we can still worship him.
• Philippians 2:10-11 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
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Even as God uses sovereign circumstances to guide us in new directions we can still trust God with what is true. We don’t need to speculate about our future or manipulate our circumstances. Unfortunately, when we don’t trust God with the truth we end up risking everything. When we misrepresent the truth we put our families, our resources, our relationships, our future, and our testimony at risk. Instead, we need to do all we can to faithfully call on the name of the LORD with integrity knowing that all we have is from Him.
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