**Genesis 20: When We Make Foolish Decisions…**

**-Pastor Dan**

**#1) It’s Common Because We Didn’t SEEK The Lord.**

*Now* ***Abraham moved on from there****into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar,* Genesis 20:1

**#2) We End Up LYING.**

***2****and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, “****She is my sister.”****….* Gen 20:2

(See 2 Corinthians 5:17 Romans 7:21-24)

**#3) We Experience UNECESSARY Consequences.**

***…****Then Abimelek king of Gerar* ***sent for Sarah and took her****.* Gen 20:2

**#4) God Still Will INTERVENE.**

***3But God*** *came to Abimelek in a dream one night and said to him, “****You are as good as dead****because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman.”* Genesis 20:3 (See Romans 8:28)

***4****Now Abimelek had not gone near her, so he said, “Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation?****5****Did he not say to me, ‘She is my sister,’ and didn’t she also say, ‘He is my brother’? I have done this with a* ***clear conscience***

***and clean hands****.”* Genesis 20:4-5

***6****Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from* ***sinning against me****.****That is why I did not let you touch her****.****7****Now return the man’s wife, for* ***he is a prophet****, and he will* ***pray for you****and you will live.* Genesis 20:6-7

***8****Early the next morning Abimelek summoned all his officials, and when he told them all that had happened, they were very much* ***afraid****.****9****Then Abimelek called Abraham in and said, “What have you done to us? How have I wronged you that you have brought such great guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that should never be done.”* Genesis 20:8-9

**#5) It’s Often Based On FEAR.**

***10****And Abimelek asked Abraham, “What was your reason for doing this?”* ***11****Abraham replied, “I said to myself, ‘There is surely no fear of God in this place, and* ***they will kill me*** *because of my wife.’* Genesis 20:10-11

***12****Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife.****13****And when God had me wander from my father’s household, I said to her, ‘This is how you can show your love to me:* ***Everywhere we go, say of me, “He is my brother****.”’”*

Genesis 20:11-13

**#6) Once Confession Occurs: God’s BLESSING Follows.**

***14****Then Abimelek brought sheep and cattle and male and female slaves and gave them to Abraham, and he* ***returned Sarah his wife to him****.****15****And Abimelek said, “My land is before you; live wherever you like.”* Gen 20:14-15

***16****To Sarah he said, “I am giving your* ***brother*** *a thousand shekelsof silver. This is to cover the offense against you before all who are with you; you are completely vindicated.”* Genesis 20:16

***17****Then* ***Abraham prayed*** *to God, and* ***God healed Abimelek,*** *his wife and his female slaves so they could have children again,****18****for the Lord had kept all the women in Abimelek’s household from conceiving because of Abraham’s wife Sarah.* Genesis 20:17-18

**#7) God’s Delays Are Not God’s DENIALS.**

*Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the****Lord did for Sarah what he had promised****.* ***2****Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.****3****Abraham gave the name Isaacto the son Sarah bore him.****4****When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him.****5****Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.* Genesis 21:1-5

***6****Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.”****7****And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”* Genesis 21:6-7