



genesis
STORIES OF
FAITHFULNESS

Taking Matters Into
Your Own Hands

GENESIS 12:10-20

Genesis 12:10-13

“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. When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, ‘I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of ...”

Genesis 12:13-17

“you, and that my life may be spared for your sake.’ When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house. And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels. But the LORD ...”

Genesis 12:17-20

“afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram’s wife. 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? 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.’ And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.” (ESV)

genesis

STORIES OF
FAITHFULNESS

Abram Left the Land of God's Choosing

“So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe” (10)

Biblical Trips to Egypt

- **Abram and Sarai in Egypt** (Gen 12:10-20)
- **Joseph in Egypt** (Gen 37–50)
- **Joseph's brothers to Egypt** (Gen 42–50)
- **Israel in bondage in Egypt** (Ex 1–12)
- **Mary and Joseph flee to Egypt** (Mt 2:13-18)

The Problem

It was a man-centered decision rather than a God-centered choice.

God's Provision

- **Moses:** God provided water from a rock, sent manna from heaven, and provided quail
(Ex 16, 17, Num 11)
- **Elijah:** God provided fire from heaven and a barrel of oil that never ran dry (1 Kngs 17–18)
- **Elisha:** God floated an axe head and raised the dead (2 Kngs 4 & 6)
- **David:** God helps David kill Goliath (1 Sam 17)

When circumstances are tough

genesis
STORIES OF
FAITHFULNESS

It is better to be in a famine with God, than in a feast without him.

genesis

STORIES OF
FAITHFULNESS

Abram Left the Lifestyle
God Embraced

“Say you are my sister, that it may
go well with me ...” (13)

Genesis 12:14-16

“When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh’s house. And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.” (ESV)

genesis

STORIES OF
FAITHFULNESS

God Doesn't Abandon Abram

“But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues ...” (17)

Plague (*ne'ga*)

- Pestilence, disease, affliction
 - A uniquely biblical word suggesting divine affliction.

Genesis 13:3-4

“And he journeyed ... to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the LORD.” (ESV)

Lasting Ramifications

- What Abram brought home:
 - Wealth
 - A maid-servant

Practical Lessons

- Never abandon God—even in the small stuff
- If you've disobeyed, return to the place where you left
- Make decisions, not based on circumstance, but on the revealed will of God
- Stay in Godly fellowship regardless of the circumstance
- While you might have abandoned God, God has not abandoned you

Application

Abram's faithfulness corresponds directly with his habit of worship.



genesis

STORIES OF
FAITHFULNESS

Taking Matters Into Your Own Hands

When Abram was faithfully worshiping, he was able to faithfully follow God's leading.

Next Steps

- I will seek God's guidance before making even small decisions.
- I will have the courage to be faithful to God in _____.
- I am done taking matters into my own hands and will let God have the reins.
- I will commit to being in Godly fellowship in church, small group, and service.