

Sermon: “*Even The Faithful Can Fail*”

Text: Genesis 12:10-20 (page 9 in pew Bible)

I. The New Testament model for justification by faith and living by faith: ABRAHAM

A. Abraham is held up as the model of justification by faith.

Romans 3:28 “We hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”

Romans 4:2-3 “If Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

B. Abraham is held up as the model for living by faith.

Romans 4:16 “To the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.”

To live by faith – as demonstrated by Abraham - means:

1. Living in obedience to the revealed will of God
2. Loving God
3. Looking to the future

II. Lessons learned from Abraham about failing faith:

A. Faith always encounters unexpected trials.

“Now there was a famine in the land...” v. 10

I Peter 4:12 “Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.”

II. Lessons learned from Abraham about failing faith (continued)

B. Failing faith fails to inquire about or trust God’s direction and provision.

“So Abram went down to Egypt.” v. 10

C. Failing faith fails to think about others and always thinks about self first.

v. 12 “When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me, but they will let you live.

v. 17 the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.

D. Failing Faith fails to tell the whole truth.

v. 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.”

E. Failing faith fails to see unintended consequences.

v. 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.”

“Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar..” **Genesis 16:1**

III. The Unfailing Faithfulness of God

v. 20 “And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.”