

The wrong hero

Even though your faith may falter

Gen. 12:10 ¶ **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.

Gen. 12:11 When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance,

Gen. 12:12 and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me, but they will let you live.

Gen. 12:13 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."

Gen. 12:14 When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful.

Gen. 12:15 And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

Gen. 12:16 And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

- Gen. 12:1-9 (left the land, abandoned wife and hope of offspring)

- James 5:17 (normal ordinary men who believed and were used by an extraordinary God)

His doesn't

Gen. 12:17 ¶ But **the Lord afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.**

Gen. 12:18 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? (failed witness)

Gen. 12:19 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." (lost their testimony - yet He is the father of faith)

Gen. 12:20 And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and **they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.**

Gen. 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 Tim 2:8-13 (The journey of salvation is not about how faithful you are its about how faithful He is)

- Rom 8:28-39 (if you could lose your salvation you would - but you cant)

intro:

saved for good works = intimidating - I mean who am I - I am no Abraham, Elijah, Moses, Peter

you don't need a title to be used by God

you don't need position

you don't need power

you don't need prestige

you need grace- - and we have it

the gospel is good news for justification AND sanctification - and Abraham proves it

Problem:

Peter would have looked to Abraham as an example of faith

Heb 11:8-16 (God was not ashamed to be called Abrahams God)

Rom 4:14-25 (Abraham grew strong in faith)

and felt totally inadequate

Matt 14:22-33 (he walked on water - you of little faith)

Matt 16:13-23 (he proclaimed the Christ - get behind me Satan)

Luke 22:31-34 (he was told his faith would not fail - then he betrayed Jesus 3 times)

The wrong hero

that is until he read Genesis 12 (Abraham left the land and abandoned his wife and any hope of offspring) and realized he was looking at the wrong hero

Main Idea:

Even though your faith may falter
His doesn't

Implication:

Peter learned this first hand

- 1 Pet 1:1-2; 2 Pet 1:2 - (may grace and peace be multiplied to you)
- Mk 16:1-8 (go tell the disciples and Peter- God was faithful to Peter)
- Jn 21:15-17 (do you love me (not do you believe)
Your relationship with God is not based on how much you love Him
Its based on how much He loves you)
- 1 Jn 4:19 (we love Him because He loves us)
- Pet 1:3-9 (God guards our faith because...He loves us - thats grace and its always about Him not us)

Application: Hebrews 12:1-2

Peter is the wrong hero, Elijah is the wrong hero, Abraham is the wrong hero... and thats good news

God saves by grace alone because He alone is the savior of your soul

God works through grace alone through you because He alone is the hero of your story

No matter where you are in life God can save you and God can use you

Action

get up and get going - He has promised to work through us - lets trust Him
call those who have fallen remind them too

Articles for further study:

I have preached on this theme many times before - here are two sermons that will add a ton of helpful links and thoughts on this subject

https://www.barabbas.com/wp-content/notes/falling_up_1_peter_1_1_2.pdf

https://www.barabbas.com/wp-content/notes/grace_upon_grace_john_21.pdf