

Genesis 12:10-20; 20:1-17

Dumbfounded Mercy and Favour



- How many of you never repeat your mistake ?
- How many did the same mistake twice ?
- Same mistake more than twice ?!

ONCE IS A MISTAKE.





Genesis 12:10-20

10 Now there was a **famine** in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to **live there for a while** because the famine was severe.

11 As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “I know what a beautiful woman you are.

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

13 Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and **my life will be spared** because of you.”

14 When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that she was **a very beautiful woman**.

15 And when Pharaoh’s officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and **she was taken** into his palace.

16 He treated Abram well for her sake, and **Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels**.

17 **But the LORD** inflicted **serious diseases** on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram’s wife Sarai.

Genesis 12:10-20

18 So Pharaoh summoned Abram. **“What have you done to me?”** he said. “Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife?”

19 Why did you say, **‘She is my sister,’** so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and **go!”**

20 Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.

Genesis 13:1-2

1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him.

2 Abram had become **very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.**

Genesis 20:1-17

1 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,

2 and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, “**She is my sister.**” Then Abimelek king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her.

3 **But 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.”

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*.”

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.

Genesis 20:1-17

7 Now return the man's wife, for **he is a prophet**, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all who belong to you will die."

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."

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.'

12 Besides, she really is my sister, **the daughter of my father** though not of my mother; and she became my wife.

Genesis 20:1-17

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." ' "

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.**"

16 To Sarah he said, "I am giving your brother **a thousand shekels of silver**. This is to cover the offense against you before all who are with you; you are completely vindicated."

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.

Abraham !

- Why moved ?
 - Famine. Water drying. Food getting scarce. large household. flocks & herds. Nile river.
- Why lied ?
 - “No, she was also my half-sister.” Too far to go back – 450km. Too beautiful. **Too scared.**
- Have you not thought about the consequence?
 - Egypt only for a while. Thought should be a marriage proposal, instead of taken.
- Shopping trips ?!!
 - “prevent robbery” – cash to items.



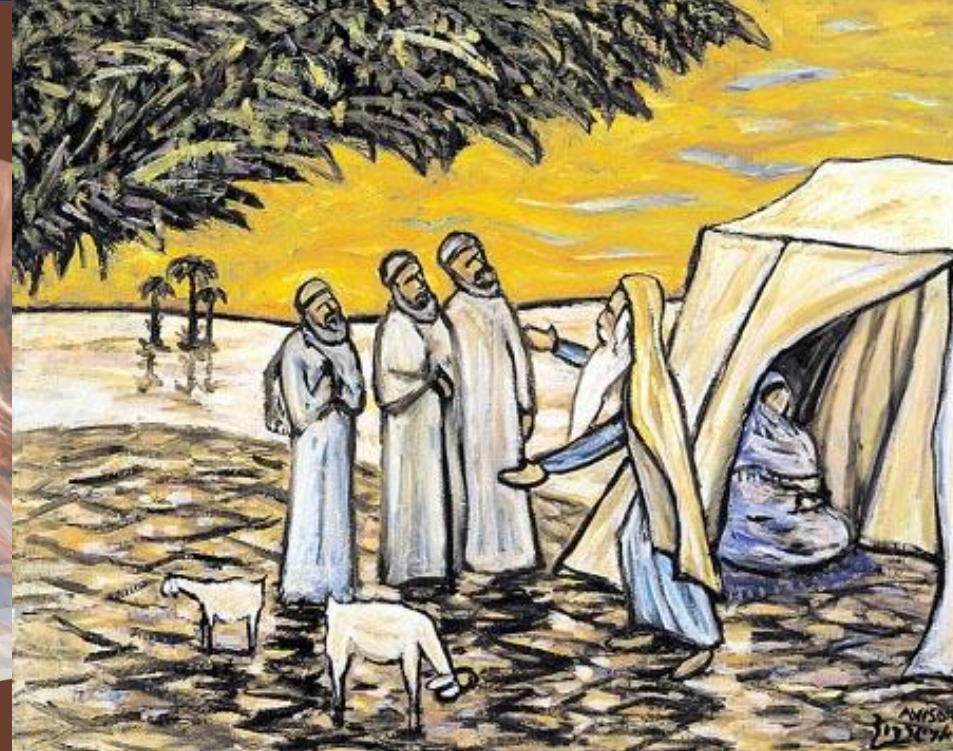
Abraham !

- Again with King Abimelek ? Same things?
 - 24 years later. Lord spoke/appeared >5 times . Promised son. Bethel – nobody's land. greener pastures. **Too Scared !**
 - **I know but I didn't believe it's for me.**



ABRAM BELIEVED THE
LORD, AND IT WAS
CREDITED TO HIM AS
RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- GENESIS 15:6

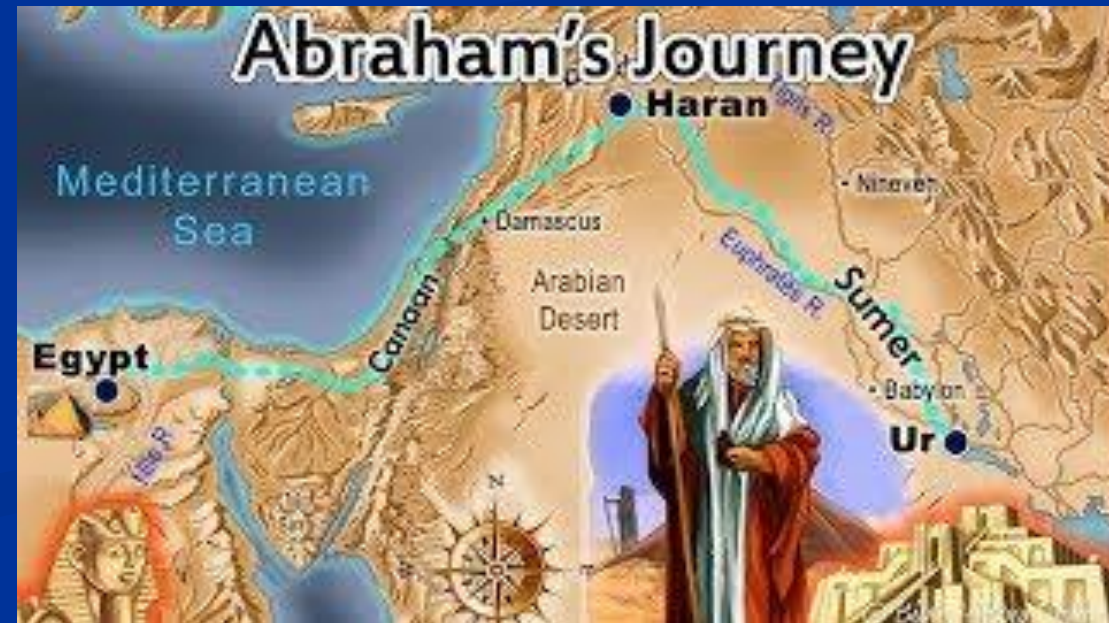


Abraham !

- What do you think about the rebukes ?
 - From others or From God. “**What have you done..?**” – Adam & Eve (Ge 3:13), Cain (Ge 4:10).
- How did you feel praying for Abimelek ?
 - Dumbfounded. Prophet ! God’s mercy!
- One Word

SECURITY

- Not in my possession
- Not in my planning
- Not in my hand



Sarah

- Why did you agree ?
 - Abram had worries. Shared burden. Half brother. He must not die.
- How did you feel when you were taken in to the palace of Pharoah ?
 - Paralysed with fear. Worse than dying. But God...
- About Abram's Shopping ?
 - Dumbfounded. Which husband ? God's Favour.
- After this experience, why again ?
 - I helped. Same results. God protected. I met the Lord. Promised Son. I would not be harmed.



Sarah

■ One Word

LOVE

- I love Abraham.
 - Through Abraham, I was blessed to know the LORD.
 - He didn't blame me. He was faithful to me.
 - He always listen to me -sending Hagar away
 - I saw the Lord loves me! I chose to forgive.
- What is the secret of your beauty ?
 - It is the Lord's doing, as I submit to the Lord.
 - 1 Peter 3:5 - 6

For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

Blunders that met with Dumbfounded Mercy & Favour

Abraham – deviated, detoured, danger,
devised a deception, should be dismissed, but
was delivered. The Lord responded to his
prayer. He was richer.

Sarah – submitted, supported, suffered, surrounded by “wolves” but was saved.
The Lord rescued, restored her.



husband

(noun)

/'hʌzbənd/

1. lover
2. leader
3. provider
4. protector



Wives

God's desire is that you
**love, respect
and submit**
to your husband
as to the Lord

WHAT IF GOD DESIGNED
MARRIAGE
NOT TO MAKE US HAPPY,
BUT TO MAKE US HOLY?

GARY THOMAS

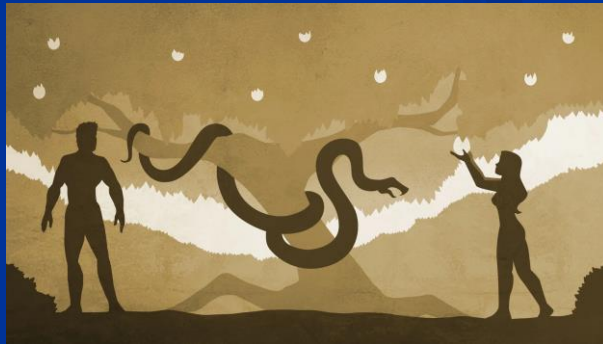


The Two Shall become one

- Marriage was God's original design.
- Most intimate, liberating, fulfilling, heart-bumping relationship on earth.
- Most destructive, hurting, frustrating, heart-aching.

And the Two
shall become One.

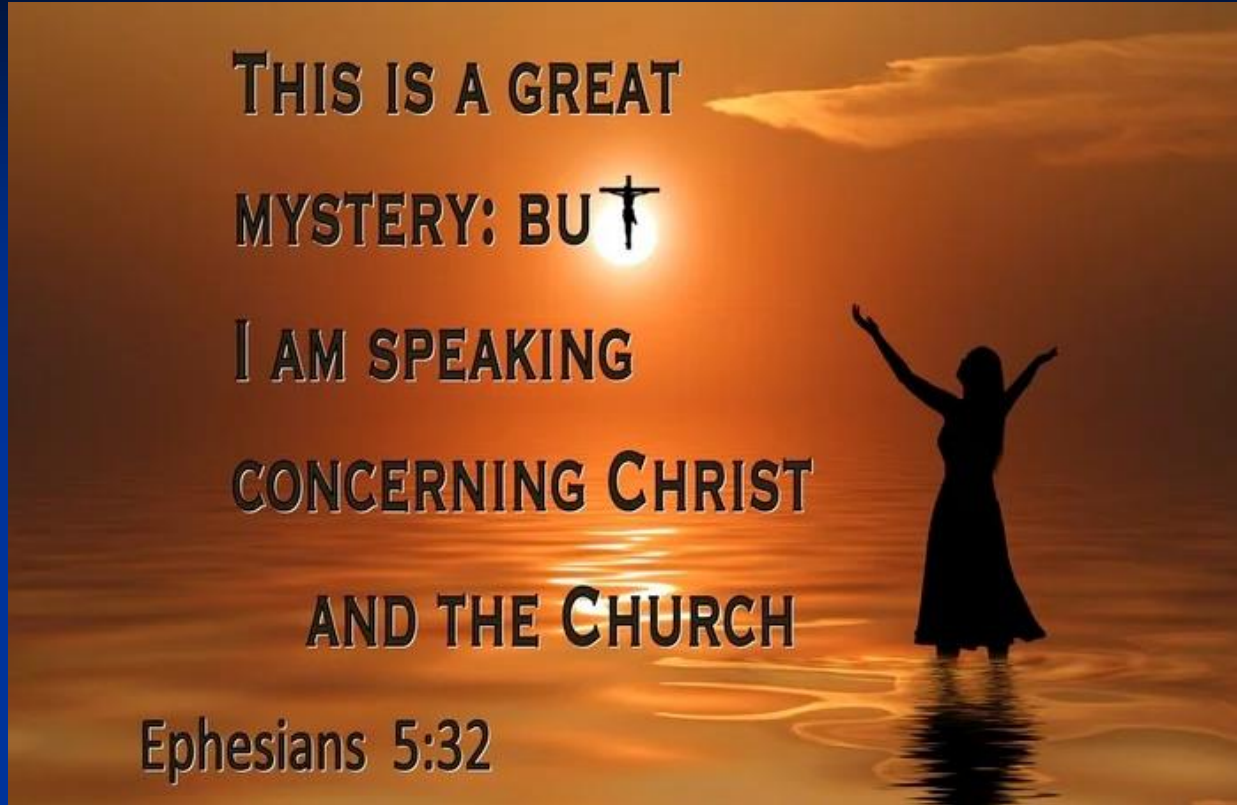
Genesis 2:24



the and
Two shall
become
One

- Ephesians 5:31 -

The Great Mystery



- Marriage is but a poor reflection of Christ and His “bride”, the Church. A profound mystery was hidden but now revealed.

His Dumbfounded Mercy and Favour is for you !



“Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ loved** the church and **gave himself up** for her, to **make her holy**, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to **present her** to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.” - Ephesians 5:25-27