

After having an intimate experience with the Lord and two angels, then an intercession for Sodom and Gomorrah where God spares Lot, Abraham continues his nomadic journey through the territory of Canaan. Upon encountering the king of Gerar, he then finds himself compromising with a familiar sin, back in a situation he's been before.

## Genesis 20:1-18

# Abraham and Abimelech

### I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

**MY EXPERIENCE...**

**YOUR EXPERIENCE...**

Besetting sins are those that tend to be most familiar to us. They are the areas of struggle toward which we are inclined or prone to battle. For many, there are certain temptations that simply wouldn't cross our minds. There are also those sins of which we battle most. These are those sins referred to as besetting. While hard to admit, the enemy is aware of them and it's those he tempts us with in an effort to get us to fall.

### II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

**WHAT** have you discovered to be true regarding the devil's efforts to cause pain, turmoil, and destruction?

**HOW** does Satan show up most often in your walk with the Lord?

**ARE** there specific areas of temptation or sin of which you've seen him most frequently work?

**HOW** has the LORD demonstrated Himself faithful in helping you overcome or confront those temptations most common to you?

# Genesis 20:1-18

## Abraham and Abimelech

### Read Genesis 20:1-20

#### OBSERVATION

Where does Abraham's journey take him, according to vs. 1?

How does Abraham describe his relationship with Sarah in vs. 2?

Who is Abimelech (vs. 2)?

Who visits Abimelech in a dream and what do you observe about the message he gives (vs. 3)?

How does Abimelech respond to this message in vs. 5?

According to vs. 6, who is responsible for protecting Abimelech, and what directions does he give him moving forward (vs. 7)?

How do Abimelech's men respond to his report in vs. 8?

According to vs. 9-10, what is Abimelech's accusation to Abraham?

What do you observe about Abraham's response to Abimelech in vs. 11-13?

How does the passage conclude in vs. 14-18?

#### INTERPRETATION

Where have we seen another experience similar to this already in Genesis? See chapter 12.

How does our sin have a similar affect on us as that of Abimelech's in vs. 3? See Romans 6:23 for insight.

What does Abimelech appeal to in order to clear his conscience from this wrong doing? How does Romans 3:23-26 explain God's character in this appeal?

Why do you think God chooses to speak to Abimelech rather than Abraham in an effort to reveal this sin?

Where do you see God's sovereign hand in this potential mess?

How does Abraham's response in vs. 11-13 mimic that of Adam and Eve's in Genesis 3:8-13?

What role does a healthy view (fear) of the Lord play in this story?

#### APPLICATION

What do you fear most: God, man, or your circumstances? Why?

How can we best be vigilant to guard our hearts against the besetting sins we fight?

What would it look like to be gracious and forgiving toward others as they fight sin each day? See 1 Peter 4:8