

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Calvert, Ms. Dannels, Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Dowling (test results), Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Sowder, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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Pharaoh's Questions for Abram

By Derek Long

God called Abram to leave his homeland and go to the land of Canaan (Genesis 12:1-3). Abram obeyed God's command, left his homeland, and went to the land of Canaan (Genesis 12:4-9). While he was in the land of Canaan a famine came upon the place and Abram went to dwell in Egypt (Genesis 12:10). Abram and Sarai decide to tell the Egyptians that Sarai is Abram's sister and not reveal that she was Abram's wife lest the people kill Abram and let Sarai live (Genesis 12:11-13). The Egyptians notice Sarai's beauty and she is taken into Pharaoh's house (Genesis 12:14-15). Pharaoh treats Abram kindly, "but the Lord plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife" (Genesis 12:16-17, NKJV). The text then tells of Pharaoh asking Abram a series of questions about why he acted as he did in portraying Sarai as his sister instead of his wife.

Genesis 12:18-19 record for us the questions Pharaoh asked Abram. They are as follows: 1. "What is this you have done to me?" (Genesis 12:18, NKJV). 2. "Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?" (Genesis 12:18, NKJV). 3. "Why did you say, 'She is my sister'?" (Genesis 12:19, NKJV). The text does not record for us Abram's reply to Pharaoh's ques-

tions but Pharaoh's question I believe can help us learn some important lessons about how we treat other individuals.

It is sometimes easy to convince ourselves our sins are not impacting anyone but ourselves. The Bible on many occasions though reminds us our sins impact the lives of others. Abram's lying and deception would certainly be something the Lord hates (Proverbs 6:16-19). However, Abram's lying and deception had the potential to cause other souls to be lost as well. We may or may not initially see how our sinful actions are impacting the lives of others but they do impact others.

Pharaoh's questions remind us there are certain things which we need to let others know. As far as we know, Abram did not come out and say, "Sarai is not my wife," but he failed to provide that important piece of information about who Sarai was to the people of Egypt. A person who fails to tell someone a vital piece of information which is necessary to them doing the right thing is acting like Abram did on this occasion. Many people could ask others, "Why did you not tell me baptism was necessary for salvation?" (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21). Many people could ask others, "Why did you not tell me there was only one true church?" (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 4:4; 1:22-23). Are we withholding information from others which is important for them to know in order to be pleasing to God and make righteous choices in their lives?

Abram's actions and Pharaoh's questions help us learn the danger of fearing man. Why does Abram not want the Egyptians to know Sarai is his wife? He is afraid, "They will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live" (Genesis 14:12, NKJV). Essentially, Abram falls into this trap of sin because he is afraid of what people will do if he

does the right thing. Proverbs 29:25 warns us, "The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe" (NKJV). Abram is a man who throughout his life displays great faith on so many occasions yet the fear of man could lead him to deceive others. If Abram could get caught in the snare of fearing man, we must certainly be careful not to fall in that trap ourselves (1 Corinthians 10:12). A fear of man oftentimes demonstrates a lack of trust in the Lord at that moment. Abram has promises from God about what will happen with his descendants. If Abram would remember and trust in those promises, he knows the Egyptians are not going to kill him. If the Egyptians kill Abram on this occasion, God would not be able to fulfill his promises to Abram. How many times are we pressured to compromise with evil because we are afraid of men instead of trusting in God?

Pharaoh's questions to Abram remind us sometimes people we think have little or no connection with God can sometimes still tell some things are wrong. Abram certainly appears to be the person in this account who is supposed to have a closer connection with God and yet Pharaoh can spot evil in his actions. People in the world can sometimes rightly identify what evil is and what good is (Romans 2:12-16). Let's remember the world may very well be watching how we act and can easily pick up if we are being sincere or hypocritical.