

EPISODE NO. 23

Gen. 20:1-18

Abraham and Abimelech

1 Then Abraham moved away from Mamre to the Negev. He lived between the towns of Kadesh and Shur. Then he stayed in Gerar. 2 (Abraham always said that his wife Sarah was his sister.) Abimelech, the king of Gerar, sent for Sarah and took her because he wanted to marry her. 3 But God came to Abimelech at night in a dream and said to him, “Look, you are about to die, because the woman whom you have taken is already married!” 4 But Abimelech had not yet had sex with her.) Abimelech said, “O Lord, would You kill even an innocent nation? 5 Didn’t Abraham tell me that she was his sister? And, she herself said that Abraham was her brother. I have done this in the integrity of my heart and in the innocence of my hands!”

6 Then the one true God said to him through the dream, “Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. I stopped you from sinning against Me! That is why I did not allow you to touch Sarah sexually. 7 So, return Abraham’s wife. He is a prophet. He will pray for you, and you will live. However, if you do not restore Sarah, then know that you and all those who belong to you will most certainly die!”

8 Then Abimelech got up early in the morning and called for all of his officers. He spoke all these words to them. They listened carefully. The men were terrified. 9 Then Abimelech called for Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us!? How have I offended you, that you would bring such great guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me which should NOT have been done!” 10 Abimelech repeated, “What caused you to do this!?”

11 Abraham answered, “I thought that there was no fear of God here, and that they would kill me to get my wife. 12 Sarah really IS my half-sister. She’s the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother. We got married. 13 And when God ordered me to move away from my father’s house, I told her, ‘Do this one favor for me wherever we go. Say that I am your brother.’ ”

14 Then Abimelech got some sheep, goats, cattle, and male and female slaves, and gave them to Abraham. He also returned Abraham’s wife, Sarah, to him.

15 Then Abimelech said, “Listen, my country is in front of you; live wherever you like.”

16 Then Abimelech said to Sarah, “Look, I have given 1,000 pieces of silver to your brother! Listen, I am apologizing to you and everyone who is with you. All these things should make it right.” 17 Then Abraham prayed to the one true God, and God restored Abimelech to full health, as well as Abimelech’s wife and Abimelech’s concubines. Later, they gave birth to children. 18 (The Always-Present One had shut every womb in the household of Abimelech because of Abraham’s wife, Sarah.)