



Faith on trial

Genesis 12:10-20

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. As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live. Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you." When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman. And when Pharaoh's officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace

Genesis 12:10-20

He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels. But the LORD inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai. So Pharaoh summoned Abram. "What have you done to me?" he said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? 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!" Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.

Now there was a famine in the land

**What a contrast to “home” in the “fertile crescent”
Egypt’s water supply seems to be more reliable than
autumn and spring rains.**

Life’s little challenges!

to live there for a while



Holding on to the promise?
Not a permanent move!



As he was about to enter Egypt,
he said to his wife Sarai,

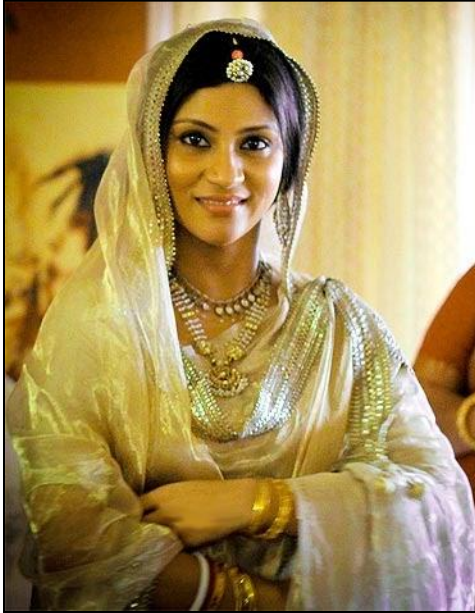


A natural solution

When you done it once,
it's very hard to unlearn !

**Who do you turn to when
facing a challenge?**

he said to his wife Sarai,
"I know what a beautiful woman you are."



Stunning at 65 !

Contrast Egyptian women
(Sarai – lighter skinned ?)



**Does he appreciate his wife ?
Does he feel she's a threat for him?**

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

fears

Our imaginations – fears can be self-fulfilling !

**Is there a real risk or is it a false
accusation about the reputation of
Egypt?**

**He has forgotten the promise
– great father ?**

Eg. Look at waves v. Jesus



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



If you really love me you will

But if they take her - she's compromised !

Half- truths work like whole lies.

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



Abram's "prophecy" comes true
He is jeopardizing God's plan

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

Officials trying to gain favour by suggesting another woman for Pharaoh's harem



Did Sarai have a choice?

***One lie
leads to more problems***

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



Gifts he can't refuse – dowry ?

Notice – the order of “importance” to Egyptians
(Egyptians not interested in camels ? – suitable for nomads)

Theses are Bedouin riches.

He's not short now – but it creates more problems later !

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

God steps in to extricate them from their mess



How long did this state of affairs last ?

What kind of diseases ?

Why do the innocent suffer ?

How did Pharaoh make the connection?

So Pharaoh summoned Abram.



Guilty as accused – his life really is in danger now

"What have you done to me?" he said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife?"

What have you done to me?

- * Lied.
- * Cheated
- * Brought trouble on me.

Your sin doesn't stop with just you-
it entangles and damages others.



What have you done to me?

Contrast

'in you shall all the nations be
blessed'



Hang your head. No reply.

How do we respond to just criticism ?

"Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!"
Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men,
and they sent him on his way.

Official escort to see that they leave !



They sent him on his way,
with his wife and everything he had.

He “got away” with it this time.
He’s still alive, and Sarai is still his wife.



Feeling Lucky?

Did they learn from this experience ?

No!

He repeated it in chapter 20
And passed it on to his son Isaac.

“Can a leopard change his spots ?”

Jeremiah 13:23



If God went to all that trouble to get Abram out of the mess he'd made, surely He would have protected him if he'd trusted the Lord in the first place .



It's Grace again!



The plan in spite of us.

Some lessons are hard to learn.

Will you trust me or work out your own solutions ?

There's still more learning to come for Abram.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.



Watch and pray !

Mark 14:38

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Notice the Devil's subtlety in tailoring the temptation to Abram.