

A promise is a promise

Genesis 21:22-34

Making a commitment is important



And it came to pass at that time that Abimelech and Phichol, the commander of his army, spoke to Abraham,



What were they worried about ?

Genesis 21:22-34

saying, "**God is with you in all that you do.** Now therefore, swear to me by God that you will not deal falsely with me, with my offspring, or with my posterity; but that according to the kindness that I have done to you, you will do to me and to the land in which you have dwelt."



And Abraham said, "I will swear."



If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12:18

He is willing

And Abraham said, "I will swear."

What does Jesus' say about oaths?

"Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.' But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."

Matthew 5:33-37

Then Abraham rebuked Abimelech because of a well of water which Abimelech's servants had seized.



Some matters need to be resolved

And Abimelech said, "I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, nor had I heard *of it* until today."



Grace is needed in handling issues

So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a covenant.



What are these for ?

Abraham set apart seven ewe lambs from the flock, and Abimelech asked Abraham, "What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs you have set apart by themselves?" He replied, "Accept these seven lambs from my hand as a witness that I dug this well."



Therefore he called that place Beersheba, because the two of them swore an oath there. Thus they made a covenant at Beersheba.



Beer-sheba = Well of seven or well of an oath

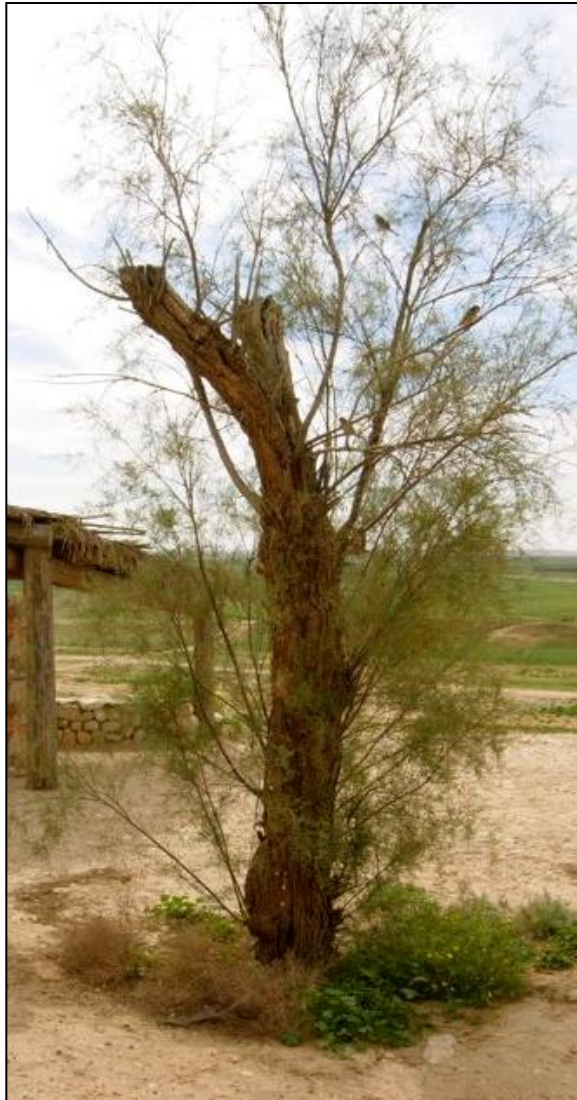
So Abimelech rose with Phichol, the commander of his army, and they returned to the land of the Philistines.

Making a commitment is important

Basis for trust, security, and a healthy relationship



Then *Abraham* planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.



**I have decided to
follow Jesus.
say “Yes. I will”**

.....

**‘Planting’ - a commitment
to the future**



Genesis 21:22-34

And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines many days.

Keeping a commitment is important



Genesis 21:22-34



?

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. 1Corinthians 4:2

In the end being faithful has its rewards

