**Origins (pt.2) - wk 11 – Liar, Liar**

**The OT is the sign to the Messiah - NT is the arrival of - JESUS.**

**Genesis – The Life of Abraham - the beginning of the way.**

**The LORD called an unlikely wanderer – fast forward, Abe is now growing in his walk with the LORD and settled in Canaan.**

**\*\* But he is still learning to trust God. How about you?**

**Genesis 20:1 From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb (south country) and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar.**

**Map - After what went down in the plains with Sodom, perhaps the view of the destruction, death and the smell was enough. It was time to move.**

**2 And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.” And Abimelech king of Gerar (local tribal groups with local king figures – generic name for local king of that region – used a lot) sent and took Sarah. (to marry and make his wife. Again!? He did this 20 yrs ago in Egypt (Gen 12)**

**3 But God (Elohim) came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, “Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife.” (LOL – true nightmare - don’t want to hear that from God!)**

**4 Now Abimelech had not approached her. So he said, “Lord, (Adonai) will you kill an innocent people? 5 Did he not himself say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this.” (I didn’t know – please!) 6 Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore, I did not let you touch her. (I know you didn’t know – that is why I am warning you)**

**She was the mother of promise – the one who will give birth to the promised nation of Israel and the messiah Jesus. God was not going to allow anything to happen to her.**

**7 Now then, return the man's wife, for he is a prophet (God’s spokesman) so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.”**

**8 So Abimelech rose early in the morning and called all his servants and told them all these things. And the men were very much afraid. 9 Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done.” 10 And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What did you see, that you did this thing?”**

**Abe was rebuked by a pagan – again. Three questions!**

* **Why did you do this to us?**
* **What did I do to you that you would bring such judgment on me?**
* **What did you see (want) that would cause you to do this?**

**Abe did not have God in his sights… he had self.**

**11 Abraham said, “I did it because I thought, ‘There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.’ 12 Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. 13 And when God caused me to wander from my father's house, I said to her, ‘This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, “He is my brother.”’”**

**Abe Makes Four Excuses (we make similar excuses)**

1. **You are the reason I did it.**

**I did it because you are a bunch of sinners – you’re the problem. “I am lying to save lives.”**

**Reveals a lack of trust in God.**

1. **Technically, it was not a lie.**

**He adds - It wasn’t a real lie. She is a half-sister, but the intention of this half-lie was to protect himself.**

**BTW – The practice of marrying a half-sister would later be forbidden (Lev 18:9,11, 20:17; Deut 27:22).**

1. **I’m not the only one who did it -**

**She did it too. This was what we agreed to say.**

**This is so that they won’t kill me and take you.**

1. **God put me in this position.**

**Blaming God – he made me wander and desperate.**

**If he didn’t put me in this position, I would have done it.**

**The correct response should have been – I am sorry – I was wrong. I apologize for dishonoring you. I was a coward and did not trust the LORD God. Would you like to know him?**

**(Out of fear of GOD - Abimelech responds) 14 Then Abimelech took sheep and oxen, and male servants and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and returned Sarah his wife to him. 15 And Abimelech said, “Behold, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you.” 16 To Sarah he said, “Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. (that is a lot!) It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all who are with you, and before everyone, you are vindicated.”**

**This was not a gift - it was a transaction of a settlement. It covered the offense and cleared Abe & Sarah. She did no wrong – no sexual misconduct. Abimelech took the blame & intended no harm.**

**BTW - God does not always intervene to save us from foolishness. God kept them from harm. This was unique Abe and Sarah were chosen for a special purpose and saved.**

**17 Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, (impotent) and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children. (God, not Abraham, is the healer) 18 For the LORD (YHVH) had closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.**

**Next wk – the chap where the 25-yr promise finally happens.**

**What can we take away from this? STABILITY ON SHACKY GROUND**

**1. Lies are always a sin**

**He claimed he was lying to save lives (his).**

**The ninth commandment – Thou shall not lie. (Ex 20:16, Lev 19:11)**

**Hebrews 6:18-19 - God is not a liar – it is impossible for God to lie -**

**Proverbs 6:16-19 – Four of the seven abominations relate to lying.**

**Whether you get away with it or not – it’s a sin.**

**Whether everybody ends up happy – it’s a sin.**

**Unfortunately, it has become an easy habit.**

**Like the Bible teacher that told his group, “Next week I plan to teach about the sin of lying. To help you understand, I want you all to read Mark 17.” The following week, the teacher asked for a show of hands as to who read it. Hands went up everywhere. The teacher smiled and said, “Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with the lesson on the sin of lying.”**

**One lie results in more and more.**

**“Always tell the truth, and you never have to remember what you said.”**

**\*\* USA Today poll – only 56% of parents teach honesty to their**

**\*\* children. Louis Harris poll - 65% of HS students cheat on exams.**

**\*\* Psychiatry study (scholastic parents) “Lying is an important part of social life, and children who are unable to do it are children who may have developmental problems. It is an essential human skill.”**

**Prov 12:22 - Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight. / Pr 19:9 A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will perish. / Col 3:9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.**

**Eventually, everything will be known**

**Luke 8:17 For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light.**

**Your lie could be a future documentary or headline.**

**Current failures of ministers.**

**Hope built on a lie will always be exposed and fail.**

**Its foundation literally does not exist.**

**Results of lying:**

**You will attract liars into your life (Pr 17:4)**

**You will have a lack of understanding and direction (Ps 119:104)**

**You will lack true success and lasting results (Pr 12:19, 21:28)**

**You will end up punished (Pr 19:5)**

**You will be seen as a fool (Pr 10:18)**

**You will have people lie to you (Ps 7:14-16)**

**You will make company with the devil (John 8:44)**

**You will not have fellowship with the LORD (Ps 101:7)**

**“Only a person with honesty and integrity can be accurately motivated and directed.” John Mason**

**2. A half-truth is a full lie every time**

**Abe told a half-truth – but was caught in a full lie.**

**A half-truth with an intent to deceive is a full lie.**

**Do you sometimes tell half-truths? Is it ever right to lie?**

**3. Old sins return if not properly dealt with**

**Abe should know better by now - dealing with the same issue even as a senior.**

**\*\*\* Age does not necessarily make one spiritually mature.**

**You won’t automatically outgrow your habits.**

**Unless we learn to walk in the obedience of the word of God and the yield to the Spirit’s convictions, we will repeat the same sinful patterns in the later years of our life.**

**Do you learn from your mistakes?**

**4. Our examples are contagious - Good and bad.**

**Unfortunately, Abe passed down a legacy of lying to his family.**

**Our sin has a wide net.**

* **Abraham: Genesis 12:10-20/ Genesis 20:1-18**

**Lies to a couple of strangers.**

* **Abraham’s Son - Isaac: Genesis 26:1-9**

**Lies to a stranger.**

* **Abraham’s Grandson – Jacob: Genesis 27:18-35**

**Lies to his father to steal his brother's inheritance.**

* **Abraham’s Great-Grandsons - 10 Boys: Genesis 37:2-35**

**Lie to their father to cover up selling their little brother off.**

**What are your kids seeing – what are your friends seeing?**

**Our examples (good and bad) are contagious.**

**5. Everyone is susceptible to stumbling**

**Abe was a hero of faith who fumbled. The great patriarch of which 60% of the world’s religions were founded. Everyone is vulnerable.**

**1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. / 2 Peter 3:17 - …be on your guard so that you will not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure standing. / James 1:14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.**

**Keep checking your pulse – be accountable – be honest**

**1 Cor 10:12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man.**

**We must be aware and ready – Pride precedes a fall.**

**Romans 11:20 - you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant but be afraid.**

**Galatians 6:1 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.**

**6. God disciplines his children – but he does not abandon his children.**

**We see this with Abe – over and over.**

**Discipline is a part of being family.**

**Hebrews 12:5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. 6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”**

**But in the discipline and trials – God will never forsake us.**

**Romans 8:18-39 – nothing can separate us from the love of God!**

**Hebrews 13:5 - God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”**

**\*\* However, we do not have a license to sin.**

**Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called… / Philippians 1:27 Nevertheless, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.**

**The process of sanctification is real for Abe/Sarah and for you and me. AND – we will stumble and be disciplined by a loving father.**

**2 Ti 2:13 If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.**

**7. Our mistakes cannot derail God’s plan**

**Abe couldn’t derail God’s purpose and plan by his foolishness.**

* **Our sin and poor choices cannot wreak God’s purposes**
* **Our sin and poor actions cannot sidetrack God’s strategy’s**
* **Our sin and poor witness cannot ruin another's salvation**

**Job 42:2 - I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.**

**You can’t cause anyone to go to hell.**

**Recent ministry church failures – every year, I am surprised. But God is not. Some think, “Well, that’s why people don’t want to be Christian.” No, it’s not.**

**John 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. / John 8:47 - Whoever belongs to God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God. / John 10:26** **But you do not believe it because you are not among my sheep.**

**The LORD God always has his will.**

**He saves his people – and keeps his people forever.**

**8. No amount of sin can ever cancel out God’s grace!**

**Abraham lied – but God still looked out for him and kept him safe.**

**Those who God calls and saves – will be kept secure. This is the story of the entire Bible. That in spite of ourselves – God saves and keep his kids – but grace.**

**John 6:35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”**

**John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one.”**

**Abe was chosen by God and God kept him by grace.**

**Abe prayed – God responded and restored him by grace.**

**Abe was used to bring glory to God – by God’s grace.**

**The challenge today:**

**A call to integrity and honesty – are you lying and telling half-truths?**

**A call to humility – are you growing prideful and arrogant?**

**A call to repentance - do you know this kind of Grace?**