



YES, NO & MAYBE

09

1. The people in this room, when afraid, are more likely to lie than to tell the truth.
2. It's acceptable for a Christian to lie if their life is in danger.
3. God does not intervene and keep bad people from doing bad things.
4. God intervenes to keep us from suffering the consequences of our actions.
5. God would rather send a vision to a pagan than to watch a believer lose their blessing.

DIG DEEP

∞ For believers who are going through persecution, is it okay to bend the truth in order to save lives?

READ: Genesis 20:1-10 (NIV)

1 Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar, 2 and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." Then Abimelek king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her. 3 But God came to Abimelek in a dream one night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman."

4 Now Abimelek had not gone near her, so he said, "Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation? 5 Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister,' and didn't she also say, 'He is my brother'? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands."

6 Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her. 7 Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all who belong to you will die."

8 Early the next morning Abimelek summoned all his officials, and when he told them all that had happened, they were very much afraid. 9 Then Abimelek called Abraham in and said, "What have you done to us? How have I wronged you that you have brought such great guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that should never be done." 10 And Abimelek asked Abraham, "What was your reason for doing this?"

∞ This is the same scheme that got Abraham in trouble before in Egypt (ch. 12). Does God always bail people out, even though they don't learn from their mistakes?

« **have taken**- [lāqata] this is a play on words. It is the common idiom for getting married. In other words, "You've just taken somebody who's already taken!"

» **adultery a capital offense**- In Middle Eastern culture, adultery was an offense punishable by death. That is why Abimelek took the dream so seriously.

∞ God gives Abimelek two things: **a vision**, and **a disease**. What does this reveal about the character of God?

» How
GOD
LEADS

DIG DEEP...CONTINUED

READ: Genesis 20:11-18 (NIV)

11 Abraham replied, "I said to myself, 'There is surely no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.' 12 Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife. 13 And when God had me wander from my father's household, I said to her, 'This is how you can show your love to me: Everywhere we go, say of me, "He is my brother."'"

14 Then Abimelek brought sheep and cattle and male and female slaves and gave them to Abraham, and he returned Sarah his wife to him. 15 And Abimelek said, "My land is before you; live wherever you like."

16 To Sarah he said, "I am giving your brother a thousand shekels of silver. This is to cover the offense against you before all who are with you; you are completely vindicated."

17 Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelek, his wife and his female slaves so they could have children again, 18 for the Lord had kept all the women in Abimelek's household from conceiving because of Abraham's wife Sarah.

∞ Here we see that God doesn't chastise people, with words or afflictions for His own pleasure, but for their profit. How is this different from how some people define the character of God?

» To what degree do you agree or disagree with the following statement?:
"God never pardons sin without bestowing blessing on the sinner."

NOTES

TALK WITH GOD THIS WEEK ABOUT...

1. How honest am I when I am afraid?
2. In what ways am I appropriately representing the character of God to the world?
3. What do I see more clearly about the character of God this week?



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