**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Repair a Broken Faith |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Genesis 12:1-5 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2303 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Life is the classroom in the school of faith.
      1. The Bible is the textbook.
      2. The prophets and apostles are the faculty.
      3. Abraham is the dean.
   2. Romans 4:11
      1. Abraham is called “the father of all them that believe”.
   3. When we think of Abraham, we think of faith; and we can learn some incredible lessons about faith.
   4. Faith is important for the following seven reasons:
      1. Faith is the distinguishing mark of the Christian.
         1. Christians were called believers before they were called Christians.
      2. To exercise faith is our chief duty.
         1. John 6:29
      3. Unbelief is the supreme evil.
         1. There is no greater evil than unbelief.
         2. How did man get into sin to begin with?
            1. Eve did not believe God.

She fell into sin because of unbelief.

* + - 1. People don’t go to Hell because they steal, lie, commit adultery, etc.
         1. Those sins have been paid for with the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
         2. John 3:18

The reason that people go to Hell is that they do not believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

* + 1. The Christian life is lived by faith.
       1. Four times the Bible says that the just shall live by faith.
          1. Habakkuk 2:4
          2. Romans 1:17
          3. Galatians 3:11
          4. Hebrews 10:38
    2. Our success in the Christian life will be measured by our faith.
       1. Matthew 9:29
          1. Not according to our feelings, fame, fortune, friends, or fate.

But according to our faith.

* + 1. Faith above all things pleases God.
       1. If we please God, then it doesn’t matter whom we displease.
       2. If we displease God, then it doesn’t matter whom we please.
       3. Hebrews 11:6
    2. The only way that we will overcome this world is by faith.
       1. 1 John 5:4
  1. In today’s message, we will learn several things from Abraham in the school of faith.

1. the root of faith (genesis 12:1-3)
   1. Genesis 12:1
      1. The preamble and basis to Abram’s faith was that God had spoken to him.
   2. The root of Biblical faith is divine revelation.
   3. Faith is not rooted in human will.
      1. Genesis 11:1-4
         1. This passage describes the building of the Tower of Babel.
            1. This was man’s attempt to establish his own kingdom through his own will.
         2. In verse 4, the word “us” is mentioned four times.
      2. Genesis 12:1-3
         1. God says, “I will.”
      3. Faith is not rooted in man’s “I wills” but in God’s “I wills”.
         1. Not in man’s “Let us” but in God’s sovereign will.
      4. The people in Babel tried to make for themselves a name.
         1. Genesis 11:4
         2. They failed miserably.
      5. God gave Abram a name.
         1. The name “Abraham” is revered throughout the entire world.
      6. There are many people today who have a Tower of Babel mentality.
         1. They try to make for themselves a name.
            1. They call it “name it and claim it”.

But you have to hear from God.

* 1. Faith is not rooted in human worth.
     1. Genesis 12:1
     2. Abram was a pagan living in an idolatrous land.
        1. Genesis 11:31
           1. Ur was the center of idolatry.
     3. When Abram first heard God, he was seventy-five years old.
        1. No one is too bad or too old for God to use.
     4. God chose a man who was a pagan, and he became a believer.
  2. Faith is not rooted in human wisdom.
     1. Genesis 12:1
     2. This wasn’t something that Abram figured out.
        1. He went under orders from God.
     3. What is faith?
        1. Faith is not positive thinking.
        2. It is not following a hunch.
        3. It is not hoping for the best.
        4. It’s not figuring it out, and then trying to make it work.
        5. It is not a feeling of optimism.
        6. It is not believing what you know isn’t so.
     4. When Abram went out, he didn’t know why, and he didn’t know where.
        1. He only knew Whom.
  3. True faith comes from the Word of God.
     1. Abram had a word from God.
     2. Romans 10:17
     3. Faith doesn’t rest on a road map but in a relationship with Almighty God.
     4. Abram was seventy-five years of age, he was well-established, and he was living in comfort when God told him to go.
        1. Abram didn’t know where he was going or why.
           1. All he knew was that God had spoken.
           2. If your life is dull and insipid, then perhaps you should do what Abram did and live by faith.

That will turn the monotonous into the momentous.

* 1. Faith is believing the Word of God and acting on it
     1. To believe the Word of God is not yet faith.
        1. That is the preamble and root to faith.
     2. Acting on the Word of God is faith.
     3. Believing the Word of God is mental; faith is actual.
     4. The difference between belief and faith:
        1. Faith is belief with legs on it.
        2. It is the difference between knowing the Word of God and knowing the God of that Word.
     5. Warren Wiersbe said the following:
        1. Faith is not believing in spite of evidence; that is superstition.
        2. Faith is obeying God’s Word in spite of circumstances or consequences.
           1. We do not live by explanations; we live by promises.
  2. What is the root of faith?
     1. Abram heard from God.
     2. Are you hearing from God?
        1. If God is not speaking to you, then you are not living by faith.
     3. Faith is hearing the Word of God and acting on it.

1. the requirement of faith (genesis 12:1)
   1. Genesis 12:1
   2. Real faith not only brings us out, but real faith also brings us in.
      1. We cannot have faith and continue to live in the land of idolatry.
         1. We cannot live in our old way of life and, at the same time, live by faith.
      2. Deuteronomy 6:23
      3. God said to Abram, “Come out of Ur that I might bring you in.”
   3. Have you forsaken idolatry?
      1. An idol is anything that we love more, serve more, fear more, or trust more than God.
         1. Some love money more than God.
         2. Some fear man more than God.
         3. Some trust ability more than God.
      2. We cannot have faith unless we are willing to come out.
         1. We have to turn from idolatry, which is sin.
         2. The reason that many people don’t have faith is that they are not willing to leave Ur of the Chaldees.
            1. They try to have faith right where they are in their same old lifestyle.
   4. There is nothing more stultifying and debilitating to faith than sin in the heart.
      1. Hebrews 3:12
         1. Unbelief never comes out of the head; it comes out of the heart.
      2. Hebrews 12:1-2
      3. We cannot pray in faith with unconfessed and unrepented of sin in our hearts.
         1. 1 John 3:21
   5. The requirement of faith is that we leave the land of idolatry.
      1. God brought us out that He might bring us in.
   6. Someone who doubts their salvation usually has sin in their life.
      1. They have idols that they have not forsaken.
         1. What right do we have to have absolute assurance if we are living with sin in our hearts and lives?
      2. If you are having trouble with faith, then try repentance.
         1. God puts certain things in order in the Bible.
            1. 2 Peter 1:2

He doesn’t say peace and grace, but grace and peace.

Grace comes before peace.

* + - * 1. He says believe and be baptized.

Mark 16:16

He never says be baptized and then believe.

Real baptism follows real belief.

To be baptized before you believe would be like having your funeral before you die.

* + - 1. Just as grace comes before peace and belief comes before baptism, repentance comes before faith.
         1. The Bible speaks of repentance and faith, not faith and repentance.
    1. We have to leave that idolatrous relationship and come to the Lord Jesus Christ.
    2. If you are having doubts, then there just may be unconfessed sin in your heart and in your life.

1. the reward of faith (genesis 12:2-3)
   1. Genesis 12:2-3
      1. By faith, Abram received a blessing.
   2. God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
      1. Hebrews 11:6
      2. By faith, man gives God pleasure; by faith, God gives man treasure.
         1. We please God when we believe God.
   3. Every blessing of God is appropriated by faith.
      1. We are saved by faith.
         1. Acts 16:31
      2. We live the Christian life by faith.
      3. We are blessed by faith.
   4. Abram was blessed that he might be a blessing.
      1. Genesis 12:2
      2. Faith gives us the power not only to be blessed, but to also be a blessing.
         1. The problem many times is that people want faith in order to get what they want, and it’s self-centered.
         2. God wants us to be a river of revival, not a reservoir of blessings.
         3. It is amazing how much God will let pass through our hands if we will receive and give.
      3. God has blessed us with Abraham (Abram).
         1. Out of Abraham we have the Jewish nation.
         2. Out of Abraham we have the descendants of Abraham, who gave us the Bible.
            1. We have the prophets.
            2. We have Moses.
         3. In the flesh, we have the Lord Jesus Christ.
            1. According to the flesh, He is a descendant of Abraham.
         4. Abraham was a man who believed God.
   5. There is no greater blessing than to be a blessing.
      1. We are blessed when we are a blessing to other people.
2. the relapse of faith (genesis 12:10)
   1. Genesis 12:10
      1. In the land of plenty (the land of Canaan), there was a famine.
      2. Abram’s faith was tested.
         1. God didn’t test him in order to make him fall.
         2. God tested him to reveal to him weaknesses and flaws.
   2. A faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted.
      1. 1 Peter 1:7
         1. The word “trial” is the word that is used to describe a metal smith testing metal to see how pure it is.
            1. As a miner brings his gold to be tested, God brings our faith to be tested.
      2. Sometimes, people have the idea that when they serve and obey God, they will be free from all testing and trials.
         1. They think that there will be all honey and no bees, but that is not true.
            1. There can be trials and heartaches in the land of milk and honey.
      3. In our prayer life, we like for God to say yes or no so that we can get it settled.
         1. But sometimes, God doesn’t say anything.
   3. There was a relapse of Abram’s faith.
      1. There was a famine, and Abram did something that he was not supposed to do.
         1. He went down to Egypt.
   4. How did his faith falter?
      1. There was compromise.
         1. Genesis 12:1, 4-5
            1. Abram was to get away from his relatives.

But his nephew Lot went with him.

* + - * 1. Instead of going all the way to Canaan, Abram stopped at Haran.
      1. Some people give their hearts to Jesus, but they have some hangover sin and unclaimed promises.
         1. They compromise a little bit.
         2. They keep this thing or that thing in their lives.
    1. A sinful compromise led to a misplaced confidence.
       1. Abram thought that there would be plenty in Egypt, so he went down to Egypt.
          1. Isaiah 31:1
       2. Sometimes, we figure and connive.
          1. We begin by compromising.
          2. Then, we put our confidence in places we shouldn’t.
          3. Things get bad, and we begin to scheme.
       3. Never doubt in the dark what God has showed you in the light.
       4. Abram trusted God to take him from Ur of the Chaldees, but he couldn’t trust God after he got there.
          1. Have you ever trusted God to save you, and then didn’t trust God to keep you?
          2. Have you ever trusted God for spiritual things, and then couldn’t trust Him for material things?
          3. Have you trusted God for all eternity, and yet, you can’t trust Him for next week?
    2. Abram’s conduct began to change.
       1. Genesis 12:11-13
          1. He was willing to let his wife, Sarai, become part of Pharaoh’s harem in order to save himself.
          2. In a technical sense, he could say that she was his sister.

But it was a half-truth, which was a whole lie.

* + - 1. A true Christian can do some terrible things.
         1. No matter how long someone is saved, their flesh is not improved.

That which is flesh is flesh.

John 3:6

The flesh cannot be cultured, and the flesh cannot be changed.

* + - * 1. If you take your eyes off the Lord Jesus Christ and stop living by faith, then you will find out that the old flesh nature is still there.
        2. Many Christians begin to compromise, then begin to scheme, and then they do things that they never would have dreamed that they would do.
  1. This lapse of faith cost Abram.
     1. Unbelief is a thief.
        1. There were blessings that were stolen from Abram.
     2. There was wasted time.
        1. All the time that he spent in Egypt was wasted time.
     3. There was a weakened testimony.
        1. What kind of testimony did he have toward Pharaoh?
           1. Pharaoh found out that Sarai was married.
        2. What kind of testimony was he to Lot?
           1. Lot got his love for sin and the things of this world in Egypt.

That is the reason Lot chose to go to Sodom.

* + - 1. Some parents have compromised their faith.
         1. They have gone down to Egypt and have not come all the way out.

They have not let go of all their idols.

* + - * 1. They may come out and do alright, but their children may not.

There may be things, tastes, and desires in their children’s lives because their parents have camped out in Egypt.

* + - 1. Genesis 13:10
    1. Abram inherited trouble when he went down to Egypt.
       1. He gained wealth.
          1. Genesis 12:15-16
          2. One of the things he got in Egypt was cattle, but God didn’t call him to be a rancher.

God called him to be a shepherd.

A range war started because the things that were supposed to bring him a blessing only brought him trouble and grief.

* + - 1. He got a woman.
         1. He got an Egyptian maid named Hagar.

She became Sarai’s (Sarah’s) maid.

* + - * 1. Later on, Abram, the father of the faithful, went to his wife’s maid and had a son, Ishmael, the progenitor of the Arab race.
      1. Abram, the man of faith who could not trust God, got himself into all kinds of trouble.

1. the restoration of faith (genesis 13:1-4)
   1. Genesis 13:1-4
   2. Abram was an old man at this time, but he was young in the faith.
   3. God was patient with him and remembered his frailty.
      1. Psalm 103:14
      2. Abram failed in the school of faith, but God re-enrolled him.
         1. God doesn’t grade on the curve, but He keeps on giving us the lesson so that we can pass.
   4. How did he repair his broken faith?
      1. There was repentance.
         1. Genesis 13:1
            1. Abram forsook Egypt.

We cannot get right with God and remain in Egypt.

* + - 1. Is there some sin in your life that is hindering your faith?
         1. Are you willing to repent of it?
      2. The most miserable person on Earth is not an unsaved person.
         1. The most miserable person on Earth is a saved person out of fellowship with God.
    1. There was remembrance.
       1. Genesis 13:3
          1. Do you remember when you had your Bethel?
          2. Abram had first met God at Bethel.
       2. Was there a time when God was nearer to you than He is right now?
       3. Remember what it was like when you walked with the Lord.
       4. Where can you find God?
          1. You will find God right where you left Him.
    2. There was restoration.
       1. Genesis 13:4
       2. Abram went back to the altar.
          1. He gave it all back to Jesus.
       3. What did the Lord do?
          1. The Lord cleansed him.
       4. When we read the New Testament, we don’t read about Abram’s failure.
          1. The only way we can find that is to read it in the Old Testament.
          2. God did not remember his sin.

God remembered his faith.

He remembers our iniquities against us no more.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. If you are away from God and your faith needs a little first aid, then do what Abram did and come out of Egypt.
      1. It is not worth it to stay there.
      2. Go back to the altar.
         1. Give it all back to the Lord and walk by faith.
            1. Live day-by-day just trusting Him and relying on His Word.
   2. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   3. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16