

**Minster Bethel
Congregational Church
(MBCC)**

02/08/2020



Faltering Faith

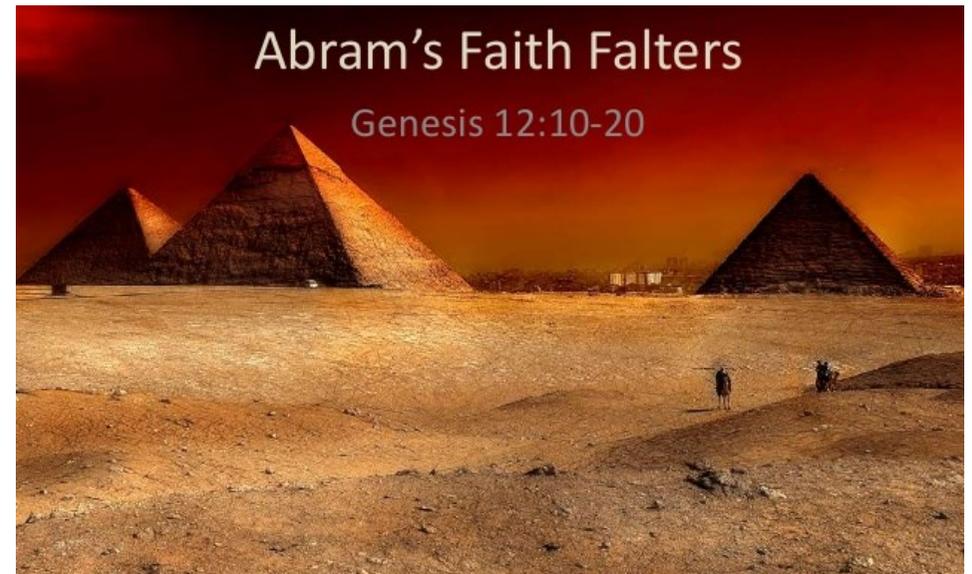
May God's blessing surround you each day.

As we trust in and walk in his way;

May His presence within,

Guard and keep us from sin;

Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.



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.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Good morning and welcome to this weeks church service.

This weeks hymn is “I will Trust in you alone”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eIQQayhpak>

- 1 The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home
- 2 He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.
- 3 And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

Our reading today is taken from Genesis 12 v 10-20

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “I know what a beautiful woman you are. ¹² When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me but will let you live. ¹³ Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you.”

¹⁴ When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman. ¹⁵ And when Pharaoh’s officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace. ¹⁶ He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

¹⁷ But the LORD inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram’s wife Sarai.

¹⁸ So Pharaoh summoned Abram. “What have you done to me?” he said. “Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife? ¹⁹ 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!” ²⁰ Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had

Learning to Trust

Even the best of us will face problems at one time or another. Abram had his share of troubles. Abram left the land of promise and wound up in the land of problems.

Problem 1: the famine

Abram was living in the southern part of the “land of Canaan when the famine took place. This famine was severe and was enough for Abram to leave the land of promise and head for a foreign land.

Clearly, Abram would make some mistakes in this situation. We don’t read in this passage that he asked the Lord what to do, or that he asked the Lord for relief.

Problem 2: the falsehoods

Abram chose to lie, I wonder how he came to the conclusion that the Egyptians would kill a man for his wife, but would leave a man’s sister alone. Regardless, he told Sarai to lie, saying, “He’s my brother”. Sarai went along with it and was carried off to Pharaoh’s house. Pharaoh, it seems, wanted to buy or trade Sarai for a number of animals and servants—and not one word as to whether or not he would let Sarai return to Abram.

Lies are easy to make up, but uneasy to undo and not easy to live through. Abram would be one of the first to testify to that!

Problem 3: the failed testimony

Sarai might have stayed in Pharaoh’s house until she died if something hadn’t happened. That “something” was the plagues which God brought on Pharaoh himself plus his entire household.

Pharaoh’s reaction was and is interesting. He called Abram and basically shames him by asking, “What is this that you’ve done to me? Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife and not your sister?” Even more striking is his admonition to Abram, “take your wife and GO” He even commanded his men to give them an “escort (!)” out of the land of Egypt.

Abram didn’t ask God for guidance, he told lies when he got to wrong place, and risked losing his very wife!

It’s never right to lie, or stretch the truth, because God knows the heart of all people. He did protect Abram and Sarai and all the rest of the household, but if Abram had been honest at the first, the whole journey may have been a much different experience. So we learn to trust the LORD when hard times come!

Let us Pray: Father, we thank You that You are always with us. Help us to always trust in You and tell the truth so that You will be happy with us. Amen.

