



Lesson #3 From Abraham: Failure

Text: Genesis chapters 12, 16, 20

Series: Book of Genesis, #9

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Theme: **Our Failures Devastate, God's Mercy Redeems.**

Examples Of Abraham's Failures.

1. Failure due to independence. (12:10-20; 20:1-18)
2. Failure due to impatience. (16:1-16)

Lessons From Abraham's Failures.

1. Always stay in close fellowship with God—remember, vital contact and trusting obedience. (for example, 12:1-4; 15:13-16)
2. Always step back and analyze the situation. (for example, 16:1-4)
3. Never excuse failure. (for example, 12:10-20; 20:1-18)
4. Always know that God's grace, forgiveness and healing are available. (for example, 12:10-20; 20:1-18)

In My Life This Week

(As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.)

Monday. We all have first hand experience with failure, and we don't enjoy it. Yesterday we looked at several examples of Abraham's failures due to independence from God and impatience. Review the accounts and any notes you made. Reflect on your own failures due to independence from God and impatience, and what Abraham's example can teach you.

Tuesday. One of the lessons we can learn from Abraham's failures is to always stay in close fellowship with God. Think about any of your recent failures, large or small, noting the condition of your fellowship with God. A second lesson is to always step back and analyze the situation, to see it from the perspective of God and His truth.

Wednesday. Another important lesson from Abraham's failures is to never excuse failure. From Adam and Eve on to today, excusing our failures and blaming others is common practice. Are there failures, past or present, that still affect you for which you have not taken full ownership? Taking full responsibility is spiritually and psychologically important for us.

Thursday. The last lesson we noted from Abraham's failures was to always know that God's grace, forgiveness and healing are available — to you, and to everyone else. Make sure you are not limiting your growth and service and not hindering others by failing to accept God's gracious work in and beyond failure.

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to take our fourth and final look at Abraham in this series in Genesis. We will focus on godly character. Review some of the record of Genesis 12 - 25 in preparation for our time together.