

## **Genesis 20:1-18**

### **Should We Fear Man or God?**

#### **Introduction:**

In relation to the question, of course we as Christian would give the right answer. We should fear God. Our theology is right but on occasion our practice is wrong; because we know at the times we feared man. I personally think that one of the biggest hindrances to evangelism in our witness of the gospel the fear man. No, we are not 'shaking in our boots,' so to speak, but we are afraid of what they might think of us. We guard our pride and often we are intimidated by their status. We are afraid of their rebellion toward us. The message God gives the Prophet Ezekiel is plain enough. God tells him to speak to the house of Israel even though they are rebellious. Speak to them even though they won't listen to you. (Ezekiel 1:8, 9)

#### **I. The Fear of Man**

##### **A. Dramatic change in Abraham's behavior**

1. Abraham enamored by the fear of man – Prov. 29:25
2. God's covenant patriarch and prophet – v.7

##### **B. Abimelech Fears Abraham's God**

1. Dreams were not taken lightly by pagan rulers
2. Although God permitted dreams at times, not all dreams were according to truth – Turn To: Deut. 13:1-5
3. Does God speak through dreams today? – Heb. 1:1-3; Acts 2:16-21; Rom. 8:28

##### **C. God's intervention**

1. Abimelech fears his own life – v.7
2. Abimelech did not come near Sarah – v.v.6
3. Abimelech summons Abraham and rebukes him for his wrongdoing v. 9,10

##### **D. Excuses, Excuses!**

#### **II. The Fear of God**

##### **A. Foundational:**

1. Fear of the Lord is the starting point of gaining wisdom – Psalm 111:10; Prov. 1:7; 9:10
2. Fear of the Lord is the Christian's wealth – Isa. 33:6
3. Fear of the Lord is connected to obedience – Deut. 6:2
4. Fear the Lord when the odds are against us – II Chron. 20:15-17

##### **B. What battles are you facing in your life?**

1. The Lord has promised to fight alongside us.
2. The Holy Spirit desires that you have His peace – Turn To: Philippians 4:4-13

##### **C. When faith fails:**

1. The cause of Abraham's sin was a lack of faith – Heb. 11:6
2. Although Abraham failed to exercise faith the New Testament does not record any of his failures. That is, because his sins have been forgiven.
3. Nothing can revoke God's Covenant promise. The calling of God is irrevocable – Rom. 11:29

