

What Happens When Good Men Slip?

Purpose: to show that even though we sometimes must go through the same situation more than once in order to learn, God will still be with us and watch over us.

Whenever we hear about great people we are usually told of their great accomplishments and victories. But even good people make mistakes! Sometimes the pressure of a difficult situation can move us to revert to our old ways and habits. What do you do when it seems that there is no good way out?

Once again we can learn from Abraham the “difference maker”. In chapter 20 we find that Abraham is faced with a problem that he had encountered before. Let’s see how he did the second time around.

Read Genesis 20

Abraham was a good man, yet for the second time he lied! Why?

- Because he thought that he was surrounded by wicked people who would take his life.
V.11 - And Abraham said, "Because I thought, surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will kill me on account of my wife."
- Because he had a pre-arranged agreement with his wife for these occasions
V.13 - And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said to her, "This is your kindness that you should do for me: in every place, wherever we go, say of me, "He is my brother." ' ' "
- Because he still was not sure that God would intervene on his behalf

He went back to his old ways – he lied about his wife

Although it was true that Sarah was his half sister, he really did deceive

What did God do for him?

- He spoke to Abimelech in a dream
V. 3 - But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife."
- He stopped Abimelech from sinning ((v. 6)
V. 6 - And God said to him in a dream, "Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her."
- He commanded Abimelech to restore his wife to Abraham and told him that Abraham was a prophet who would pray for him. (v. 7)
V. 7 - Now therefore, restore the man's wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."

- He caused Abimelech to bless Abraham and Sarah
V. 14 - Then Abimelech took sheep, oxen, and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham; and he restored Sarah his wife to him.

David was also a godly man, yet he also lied when he got into a difficult situation.

- 1 Samuel 21:10-15
 - David did not ask God what to do, but went on his own to the land of the enemies of God
 - David became very much afraid
 - David “pretended” to be mad – he deceived them; he lied

However, when David finally learned to trust God, this is what he wrote:

Psalm 37: 23,24

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.

Final Summary:

- Sometimes we must go through the same thing more than once in order to learn what God wants you to learn.
- God was with Abraham even when he failed. Don’t worry too much when you mess up. He will be with you as well
- God still watches over us even when we are not able to watch over ourselves
- Don’t worry about evildoers; trust God and “do good”. You will eventually reap