

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

Title:

Fear God Most

Speaker:

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Date:

February 25, 2023

Scriptures:

Genesis 20:1-18

**Theme:** Fear God more than you fear this place.

**Introduction:** To survive in this fallen world, fearing the right things is critical. There are dangers in life, and fear is part of a proper response to them. Ultimately, because this is God's world, we must fear him the most. In that way, we can turn from foolish sins and walk in obedient faith before him.

Genesis 20 shows us 3 stages of growing to fear the Lord:

### 1. The place (1-7)

Abraham moves to Gerar, and there he again misrepresents his relationship to Sarah, identifying her as his sister.

The king, Abimelech, takes Sarah into his home to be his wife. This may well have been a political marriage, where he was seeking an alliance with Abraham.

The Lord confronts Abimelech in a dream, and Abimelech pleads innocence toward Sarah. The Lord spares him because he did not defile her.

The Lord orders him to return her to Abraham, or to face death. The Lord also calls for Abraham to pray for Abimelech and his restoration.

### 2. Fear and no fear (8-13)

Abimelech confronts Abraham and rebukes him for not behaving honorably. Abraham says he acted the way he did because he didn't think they feared the Lord.

Abraham was the one who wasn't fearing the Lord. He was taking an attitude similar to Lot in negotiating with God's truth instead of standing fast upon it.

Abraham was focused on self-preservation instead of on honoring the Lord and caring for and protecting his wife.

### 3. God's correction (14-18)

Abimelech obeys the Lord and returns Sarah to him. He then pays an extravagant fee (1,000 silver coins, 20x the bride price) in order to demonstrate her innocence and his desire for vindication.

Abraham was rebuked by Abimelech for his faithlessness; but the Lord was also very merciful to him and he was blessed with various forms of wealth.

Abraham intercedes for Abimelech and his household, and the Lord re-opens their wombs and show them mercy.

We are also encouraged by the Lord's faithfulness to Abraham in spite of his falling back into an old pattern of sin. The Lord is faithful even as Abraham was not.

### Questions:

1. Are you facing problems that you're trying to solve on your own?
2. How are you tempted to fear others more than you fear the Lord?
3. How has the Lord blessed and encouraged you when you've: a) failed to obey; b) obeyed and stood for his truth?