

How Will We Respond?

Genesis 20:1-18

How Will We Respond?



Guilt. Excuses.
Worry. Anxiety.

What goes through your mind
when you see these lights?



How Will We Respond?

How do you respond when you're caught doing wrong or your sin is called out?

How Will We Respond?

- Abraham doubts God's ability to protect him, he disregards the covenant, he uses Sarah as a pawn to protect himself, and has no regard for the sin Sarah will be committing.
- Abraham is still worried about Abraham.

How Will We Respond?

- Faith is not a journey of constant increase in Christlikeness without any moments of failure or backward steps.
- Faith is about the trajectory of our life. Over time our lives should reflect the likeness of Christ more and more.
- In-between living out of faith in God we will have moments, even season, of living out of our flesh.
- How we respond to the moments and season of living out of our flesh matter.

How Will We Respond?

- What season is your faith in today?
 - Spring- a period of growth in Christlikeness?
 - Summer- a season of enjoying the growth you've just had.
 - Fall- a time of taking a step or steps backwards?
 - Winter- living to just get through the day. Faith is stagnant or on the back burner of life?
- We will spend time in each season multiple times throughout our life. Pay attention to what God is or wants to do in each season?

How Will We Respond?

- God is faithful to his promises and covenant despite our lack of faith and sinfulness.
- God will sometimes use what appears to us to be a bad thing to keep his promises on track.
- Sometimes we don't see how these bad things God used to protect and even grow our faith.

How Will We Respond?

- When we see our sin as being against another person or institution it is easy to justify our sin and dress it up as something other than sin.
- How do you try to dress up your sins?
 - Fail to take responsibility
 - Make it the other person's responsibility
 - Play the victim
 - Downplay it by citing our spiritual merit badges

How Will We Respond?

- All sin is a sin against God.
- Every sinful word said or action done toward another person is ultimately done against God.
- It's impossible to justify our sin when we see it against God.
- Think of the sins you committed this past week? Did you justify them, make little of them, transform them into a 'truth', play the victim?
- What does that reveal about your heart? Where do you need Jesus to change your heart today?

How Will We Respond?

- Abraham's responses to his sin being exposed:
 - Blames the king and his people. Makes an assumption about them.
 - Blames it on his fear of being killed. Fear is a great “justifier”
 - Tries to make it into a truth or at least make it a “small” sin.
 - Cover it with spiritual merit badges.
 - Blames God and Sarah.

How Will We Respond?

- How we respond to sin matters.
- We either become a caricature of Jesus and our faith or we display the character of Jesus in our faith.
- Do we respond to sin as a caricature of Jesus and our faith or do we display the character of Jesus in our faith.
 - Denying our sin makes us into a caricature of Jesus and faith.
 - Acknowledging our sin against others and God displays the character of Jesus in our faith.

How Will We Respond?

- When we try to downplay our sin as anything less than sin we allow it to hide and continue its destructive work in our life, relationships, and faith.
- When we acknowledge our sin before God and those we hurt it shows us where our heart needs transformation.
- We can then invite Jesus in to transform our hearts and find freedom, relationship can heal and continue to grow.

How Will We Respond?

- When you're caught in sin- how do you respond?
- Is there anyone in your life that you need to go take responsibility for your sin?
- Is there anyone you need to ask forgiven from?
- Where is sin hiding in your heart? Will you have the courage to acknowledge it and bring it before God so he can heal it?
- Will you be a caricature of Jesus and our faith or will you model the character of Jesus in your faith?