

Genesis 12:10-20 - Flawed Faithfulness

What are the stories that define us?

1) God forgotten

(v10-13)

2) Schemes foiled

(v14-16)

3) Sinners rescued

(v17-20)

Therefore:

- Looking back to Eden: we bear Adam's nature

- Looking forward to the Exodus and beyond: God keeps his promises

For further discussion

- v10-13: In what ways did Abram forget God? What do you think of his scheme? How would he have justified it to himself? How do we behave similarly?
- v14-16: How do things get out of hand? What are the links with Eden? What do you make of the blessings Abram receives?
- v17-20: What does God do? How does Pharaoh respond? Who is Pharaoh behaving like in the Eden story? What does Abram's silence suggest?
- What should have marked Abram's interactions with Egypt and Pharaoh according to 12:1-3? What is the reality instead? How can we end up hindering the spread of God's blessing? How might our attitude to trials and setbacks need to be different?
- How would the Israelites have read this story in the light of their own rescue from Egypt? What echoes would they have seen here? What echoes do we see in the light of our redemption at the cross?
- What encouragement is there for Christians facing trials in the light of this passage? What happens if we forget either the truth that we bear Adam's nature or that God keeps his promises?