

***An Expository  
Study of the Book  
of Genesis***



**Chapter 20**

**November 9, 2011**

# Chapter 20

## Key Message

*Some people seem to be unwilling or unable to learn from past mistakes.*

# The Reason

*We tend to underestimate our own flaws and the virtue of others.*

# Genesis 20:1

***Abraham  
underestimated  
the inherent flaws  
in his character***

# Genesis 20:1

- **Now Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he sojourned in Gerar.**
- **Abraham said of Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.” So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.**
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# Character Flaw

- Abraham never got over his deep-rooted fear that someone would take his wife and kill him.

# Character Flaw

*Abraham had a  
tendency to play  
fast and loose with  
the truth. (20:2; 12-13)*

# Character Flaw

*Abraham thought too highly of himself which caused him to have a low regard for others. (20:11)*

# Genesis 20:2-7

***Abraham  
underestimated  
certain spiritual  
considerations***

# Consideration #1

*Abraham suffered from physical and spiritual exhaustion after his ordeal over Sodom.*

# Consideration #2

*Abraham suffered from spiritual amnesia because he completely forgot God's promises concerning his wife.*

# Consideration #3

*Abraham suffered from spiritual myopia because he had shown such great concern for Sodom and almost no concern for Gerar.*

# Genesis 20:8-13

***Abraham  
underestimated  
the implications  
of ignoring  
history***

**Abraham...**

***...left Canaan  
earlier to live in  
Egypt and he  
apparently had  
forgotten the  
lessons of Egypt***

# Genesis 20:14-16

***Abraham  
underestimated  
the possible  
consequences***

# Abraham...

*...through his  
thoughtless  
behavior,  
potentially  
compromised the  
birth of his son..*

# Genesis 20:17-18

*Abraham  
underestimated  
God's sovereign  
intervention*

**Abraham seemed...**

***...to underestimate  
God's ability or His  
willingness to  
intervene in human  
situations.***

# Lesson 1

*When we underestimate our own sinfulness, we will invariably live to regret it.*

# Lesson 2

*When we underestimate our tendency toward spiritual amnesia, we increase the likelihood of repeating past mistakes.*

# Lesson 3

*When we underestimate the extent of God's sovereignty, we become victims of our own presumptions.*

# Lesson 3

*The blessings that we enjoy today may be the result of God's faithfulness to those who have gone before us.*

# Lesson 4

*When a believer loves the world, it is easier to take them out of the world than it is to take the world out of them.*