

SERIES – Lessons from the Hebrew Bible  
To Err is Human, to Forgive Divine - 2/16/25  
Genesis 12:10-20

- I. Lessons from Abraham's Deception
  1. Abraham was as human as we are
    - He trusted God
    - He also had fears that impeded his ability to trust God
  2. The extent of his deception
    - He lied, telling Pharaoh Sarah was his wife
    - He made Sarah lie, resulting in her being forced to act as Pharaoh's wife
    - His deception brought shame to Pharaoh and harm to the Egyptian people
  3. Forgiveness is available to us when we fall short
    - We will do, say, or think things that are wrong
    - But God is always willing to forgive us
    - We just need to confess and open ourselves up to God's forgiveness
  4. God expects us to forgive others
    - Acknowledge we've been hurt by someone
    - Choose to forgive them
    - Let go of resentment and replace it with empathy
  5. We sometimes need to ask someone to forgive us
    - It's good to think about whether we have offended or hurt someone
    - We are called to apologize or even make amends to those we harm

*One unchangeable fact about us is that we are not perfect and never will be. But God is faithful and just to forgive us. We should do the same to others.*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Genesis 12:10-20 – Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to reside there as an alien, for the famine was severe in the land. <sup>11</sup> When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his

wife Sarai, "I know well that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, <sup>12</sup> and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife'; then they will kill me, but they will let you live.<sup>13</sup> Say you are my sister, so that it may go well with me because of you and that my life may be spared on your account." <sup>14</sup> When Abram entered Egypt the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. <sup>15</sup> When the officials of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. <sup>16</sup> And for her sake he dealt well with Abram, and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female slaves, female donkeys, and camels.<sup>17</sup> But the Lord afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. <sup>18</sup> So Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? <sup>19</sup> Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her, and be gone." <sup>20</sup> And Pharaoh gave his men orders concerning him, and they set him on the way with his wife and all that he had.

Romans 3:22-23 - For there is no distinction,<sup>23</sup> since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Romans 7:17-25 - I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate... <sup>18</sup> For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do... For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

I John 1:8-9 - If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.