When the Way is Hard

Genesis 12:10-20

Introduction

Abraham was a man of great faith, but he didn’t become that immediately. Abraham grew in faith just like we are to grow in faith.

What do we do when the way is hard?
Will we trust in God and in his word?

I. When the way is hard, it can be difficult to trust in God’s promises.
Verses 10-13

Abraham’s faith was being tested.
God was saying to Abraham, I will be your God and I will place you under my care and protection.

For Abraham, the threats to God’s promises were these:

- Sarah was barren.
- His father had just died.
- His destination was unknown.
- He has no home.
- There are Canaanites in the land.
- There is a famine in the land.

God, did I hear you correctly?
What did Abraham do? He did what many people did when there was a famine in Canaan. He went to Egypt.
He said to Sarah his wife – say you are my sister.
Abraham came up with a human solution.

II. When we rely on human solutions instead of trusting God, failure inevitably follows. Verses 14-16

When Abraham came into Egypt, things did not go as he planned.
Abraham has no land, no children and now, no wife.
God, I have really made a mess of my life.
Can you identify with Abraham?

“We reason that obeying God is all right so long as all goes right; but come trouble, famine, peril or sword and piety goes out the window, and we trust not in God but in our own resources.” James Boice

God wants us to trust him in every situation in our life.

III. God is bigger than our problems. Verses 17-20
Can God do what he has promised?  
The promise of God was hanging by a thread.  
God must intervene to protect Sarah and that is exactly what he did.

Pharaoh got the message.  Ironically this pagan king rebukes Abraham, the man of God, for his lying and deception.  
Abraham would return to Bethel and there he would worship God.  
Genesis 13:3-4

Our God is bigger than our problems.

Conclusion
How do we learn to trust God more?  
• Get to know him well.  It is hard to trust someone you don’t know.  
• Pray.  Trust God for small things and greater things.  
• Step out in faith.  Our faith grows as we use it.  
What are the challenges you are facing today?