When the Faithful Are Fearful
(Genesis 20)

Introduction: 1.   It's sometimes hard to see or hear people we respect do and say things that are unbecoming.

                 2.   However, such occasions should not cause us to turn our backs on them, because we know all too well, that we are guilty of the very same thing.

                 3.   Genesis 20 records an event in the life of Abraham, "A Friend of God" and "The Father of the Faithful" in which he is the one who lacks integrity and is "shown up" by one in the world.

I.   Sometimes The Faithful Are Fearful

    A.   One of the most frequent commands in the Bible is "Do not fear."

    B.   (Genesis 20:11).

    C.   Faith is a process and not a once for all event.

    D.   The greater we know the object of our faith, the greater our faith becomes.

II.   Faithfulness Does Not Imply Perfection

    A.   The Bible records the failures of it's noble characters

        1.   Noah (Genesis 9:20-23).

        2.   Moses (Numbers 20:1-13).

        3.   David (2 Samuel 11).

        4.   Peter (Matthew 26:69-75).

    B.   (Genesis 12:11-20).

    C.   A light-hearted admission of sin is not the same as a broken-hearted confession (Psalm 51:17; Proverbs 25:13).

III.   Our Conduct Affects The World

    A.   (Genesis 20:3).

    B.   Abimelech would have died had Abraham remained silent.

    C.   Likewise, what will be the fate of the world if we remain silent today?

IV.   What Was Damaged By Abraham's Sin

    A.   His Character - Abraham stopped asking what was right and asked what was safe.

    B.   His Testimony - How can people trust him if he was a known liar.

    C.   His Ministry - He was send to bless people, but nearly caused a man's death.

V.   The Residual Effects Of Abraham's Sin

    A.   (Genesis 26:7-11) Isaac follows in his father's footsteps.

    B.   The influence of our sin lives on in the lives of others, long after we are gone.

    C.   (Numbers 16).

Conclusion: 1.   This example from the man known as the "Father of the Faithful" should serve to remind us that there is weakness in all of us.

2. Therefore, we need to learn from Abraham and take care that we guard our lives from sin.