

Genesis: God and Man

Genesis 12:1 The LORD Had Said to Abram...I Will Show You

- Repopulated the earth
- Nimrod
- The tower of Babel
- Generations, Peleg
- Finally, to Abram

What is it that you can't wait for?

You couldn't wait for?

As a kid growing up, Christmas. Our kids this year with Christmas.

Lists, desires, advent calendar

Counting down the days

I think Abram wanted more. He was wealthy, but he lived in his father's house.

Think of Trump's children. That's what they are known for, what they are famous for.

Some are successful in business and world affairs in their own right, but always under the shadow of their father.

I think the same, in some way for Abram.

His family was a family of **idolaters**

Jos 24:2 NKJV - And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Your fathers, [including] Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.'

He lived in Babylon. As we touched on last week, lots of idols, ego and a continued culture of godlessness.

Yet Abram wanted more. We know God called him while he was still there.

Maybe not in the sense of personal wealth or fame, but he saw that having that was empty.

His family had everything. Wealth, power, prestige, the most spiritual plurality of coexisting there was in the most powerful empire of the time.

But it wasn't enough.

Abram knew those idols his family and his people worshipped were nothing.

1Co 8:4 NKJV - Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol [is] nothing in the world, and that [there is] no other God but one.

So at some point he sought God. But we'll see that God sought him, because God is the one who spoke to him

Seeking God in the emptiness of my life before Christ. Sitting in a bar, drinking, looking around and thinking that there had to be more than this.

Genesis 11:26 - 12:5

(reading through 5 today, but we'll cover 2 and on next week)

Past Tense

We stepped back here because if we just started in 12 and didn't catch the past-tense of verse 1, we'd miss an important aspect of the beginning of the story.

The LORD had said to Abram

How long was it from when God had said that to when he went?

I don't know, but Abram was no spring chicken as we'll see.

Did he hear the call as a youth?

Did he hear the call as a young unmarried man?

When did this **unsettling** in his life start? I have a feeling it may have been percolating for a while. But Abram was still dependent on a **Lot**.

When we feel unsettled in life it's because something needs to change.

When God begins to unsettle us in life, it's because he's preparing us for him to make that change.

And a lot of times that means to move. Either to move to our knees or to move away from whatever it is that is between us and God. Between us and a closer relationship with him.

If the things, people and places in our lives aren't drawing us near to God, they've got to go or we've got to go. (we're not to run away, trials are where faith is proved, but we've got to flee sin, forsake the past and our ways, and not to associate with the unfruitful things of the world)

Get out of go, walk, come, depart, proceed, move, to go away...but also to **die** and metaphorically to a manner of life, to lead, to cause to walk

Jesus to Simon Peter and his brother Andrew:

Mat 4:19-20 NKJV - Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." They immediately left [their] nets and followed Him.

God was leading Abram out and away from everything he knew and loved

your country land, country, people, ground, territory

Have you ever been out of the country? Culture shock?

Ireland right hand drive, not tipping

Bahamas snack shack, no one out during the early afternoon, poverty

Travelled to other parts of the US? So large, mini-cultures

South, west, midwest, northeast

It's a scary proposition to leave everything you know and love. And god hadn't told him the destination. Just to **get out**

We have GPS, abram didn't

We have google maps to preview where we're going, get turn by turn directions.

Mat 8:19-20 NKJV - Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air [have] nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay [His] head."

Jesus was saying when you truly follow me, the cost could be not having a home.

Not owning a home, not having a homeland anymore, not having a place to go back to

Sojourners and pilgrims (1 Peter 2:11)

We have the scripture. Abram just had the voice, the promise, the hope

How much does it take for God to say or do in our lives to get us to move?

How much should it really take?

How much of the cross is important to us?

How much prompting? How much leading? How much convicting until we obey?

1Th 5:19-22 NKJV - Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

What's it going to take for us to take God at his Word?

From your family - kindred, birth, offspring, relatives

I know his family wasn't supportive. To them, Abram was weird. He just had one God. His God was just another God to them. Maybe they worshipped him too, in their minds. Just another cultural thing.

Sure Abram, we'll go to church with you. We go on church and easter. Jesus is up in our living room.

Family was important to Abram. They had a big family. They had a tight family. They knew about tent living. Moving might have been their thing, but they never went out of their own country.

Family is good. But who is your family? What priority do they take? We talked about this a few weeks ago before Thanksgiving.

Mat 12:47-50 NKJV - Then one said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You." But He answered and said to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! "For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."

Mat 10:34-39 NKJV - "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. "For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; "and 'a man's enemies will be those of his [own] household.' "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

God was telling Abram, you want real life, and I'm going to give it to you more than you can imagine, but you have to lose yours first.

From your father's house father, head of household, ancestor, originator of a profession/art, protector, ruler or chief

Abram: exalted father - i think his daddy named him this on purpose. He was overjoyed to have a son and having a son exalted his father, but also his father was an exalted man

Like we talked about his father's shadow

But also his house, his provision, his sphere of influence

A father's influence is very great on his children. You can't stop that. Good or bad. There or not. His influence is there. An absent father influences his children just as much as a present father. Just not in the same way.

For Abram to receive blessings from his heavenly father he had to deny the blessings of his earthly father.

This would be a lesson learned here that would give something for Abram to stand on later when he rescues Lot and pays tithes from the spoil and does not take a thing from the King of Sodom lest the king of sodom get the glory.

God's provision in our lives won't be realized unless we let him be our provision.

Too often we take the well-meaning provision of others instead of waiting for the provision of God, which is always greater. Always better. And never has any strings attached.

The only way for God to make Abram great is for Abram to allow God to be the greatest in his life.

Paying rent - first to my mom and step dad, then living with friends and paying a friend, then living in a condo a friend owned but being the guy over that house, then living on my own in a place another friend owned, then living with my wife in a place a friend owned, temporarily staying in a place attached to a friends house, but needed to get out from under them both - good, well intentioned, but as a man, i knew i had to be on my own to be the most responsible and i always felt like it wasn't my house - because it wasn't. Then renting from strangers in a corporation and now here. It's good, but at the end of the day, I just desire to have my own place to be the ruler of the land haha. But if i never am, that's fine, because I am a pilgrim, my home is heaven

*Kids living in their parents house, on health care until 28
Never kicked out when done wrong
Never forced to grow up*

*Changing a tire at 12 - if my dad was there, i wouldn't have had to have learned that
Being forced to pay rent before getting saved because I should, I was an adult
If not, why not? If no motivation, why should i? Who wouldn't be lazy with a free ride?*

*The reason why millennials are the most entitled is because their parents spoiled them.
I was spoiled to some degree, but I also got a job at 14.*

*I've grown up a lot since getting married and having kids
(still plenty to go, i feel so behind in some aspects)*

But that growth would have never come if I never took on or was given the responsibility. Our kids cleaning up, saving money, etc. we want them to learn responsibility now, at their level, that it would be natural to them. Oh how much I had to grow up after getting saved. How unprepared I was for real life by the time I was an adult.

No pain, no gain.

Takes money to make money - no, it takes a job, a skill, an ethic, a willingness to get up and do something. To make something.

But even with all that, we'll never be truly great unless we let God do the work.

We are chosen, but we are not entitled. God promises, but we must work out our faith in them.

To a land that I will show you. Land, same as before
To see, look at, perceive, consider, to observe, consider

Moses shown the land
Joshua and Caleb spy it out

Paul and John showed heaven, Paul couldn't speak of it, but John freely did.
He saw the promised land and told us about it.

Spying out a land

NYC years ago, maybe I should have went, but I did spy it out

Psa 48:12-14 NKJV - Walk about Zion, And go all around her. Count her towers; Mark well her bulwarks; Consider her palaces; That you may tell [it] to the generation following. For this [is] God, Our God forever and ever; He will be our guide [Even] to death.

*Going to Maryland
Took a trip*

Even in the physical, it makes sense.

You see a house you like, you go look at it, walk around, get up close. You see a car, you test drive it. You barely ever go sight-unseen unless you are desiring to have your work cut out for you.

This is why people date, but dating screws you up. You get close before you know if you can get close. Date from afar. Watch the person, see who they are, see if God will bring you together in service.

Same for ministry

1Ti 5:22 NKJV - Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.

Make sure they are who they say they are, or who they appear to be

Pro 27:2 NKJV - Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

Ted talk, "Why incompetent people think they're amazing - David Dunning"

Under Qualified or skilled people tend to think they're overqualified - rate themselves as much as experts rate themselves

Overqualified people tend to think they're under qualified and don't realize how special they are - assume others know what they know

We need to have a realistic view of ourselves, and that only comes at the cross.

But with that realistic view, it gives God the opportunity to show the world how great he is and make you and i something great.

Something greater than we can ask, think or imagine.

Do you know that God wants to do something great through you? Greater?

Psa 37:4 NKJV - Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

What's the deepest desire you have? Is it the Lord? If so, what's the second deepest?

Greater than you can imagine? You know those deep-down desires? That you think could never happen or never be true? Maybe they won't, but maybe, just maybe, as a believer, if they're pure, they're from the Lord and they hint at what his great purpose is for you.

You have a great purpose. And it's not to be second rate. It's not to be a pew warmer. It's not to do the same old thing.

To be number one you have to be odd.

Be odd for God

Turn to Matthew 14:21-33

Jews had 3, Romans had 4 - the "fourth watch," ([Matthew 14:25](#)) or by the terms 6-9 "even," 9-12 "midnight," 12-3 "cock-crowing" and 3-6 "morning." ([Mark 13:35](#))

Mat 14:28-29 NKJV - And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

God wanted Peter to get out of the boat. To get away from the others and come closer, come further. **He wanted to show them, as he always did (throw your nets on the other side),** that he had ways they knew nothing about.

Deep down, peter wanted to come out after jesus. But he was afraid. He had doubts. He knew he wasn't able to do the things Jesus did.

And he was right. He wouldn't until Pentecost. Until the Holy Spirit came.

God wants you and i to get out of the boat.

I don't know what boat you're in

A boat of trouble, a sinking ship - *the elevator company, titanic metaphor...*

A boat with others who know God but aren't following him closely or at all

Getting out of the boat is scary. It is unknown. It doesn't obey any laws of physics we're familiar with.

But God is above all that. Outside all of that. In control of all of that.

The funny thing is, when we desire god to do something, he's already desiring it.
When we have a deep down desire for something, and it's been tried, brought before the Lord, prayed about, and his answer is Come...we must go.

Love God and do what you want. Because what you want will be loving God.

Jer 1:4-7 NKJV - Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." Then said I: "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I [am] a youth." But the LORD said to me: "Do not say, 'I [am] a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak.

Jeremiah wanted to speak for God, but he knew he had no place in an of himself.

But when God called him, he would speak in a time and even though no one would listen.

Turn to Matthew 6:24-34

If we're here next week, if we don't go to heaven first, we'll see how great the promise to Abram is. And how delaying obedience to the call for whatever reason only causes us to miss out, wait longer.

Don't wait.