

We Are Called to Trust and Obey

Genesis 12:1-9

How tragic is the Las Vegas shooting? Fifty-nine deaths more than 500 injured. I was watching those stories and I felt helpless facing those tragic situations. How can be useful to this world? Who could bring comfort to those people?

I am doing a series of sermons under the title: **You are Called**. I pray that I would motivate you to get out of the boat and walk with the Lord. Last Sunday I heard comments from many of you saying the sermon spoke to you. Great, we just started.

Today I will study with you the life of Abram or Abraham. (God changed his name, gave him a new identity.)

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.” (Genesis 12:1 ESV)

1. Separate Yourself from the OLD

God gives a very unusual call to Abraham: “Abraham, get out from old life to a new life. Get out from your comfort zone to a new land and new opportunities. GET OUT and separate yourself from your family...”

Abraham’s call is very strong. To leave behind your family and move out to a new place is a very tough thing to do. Abraham had to separate himself from the old life and relationships in order to follow God’s call.

I am not sure that God wants you to leave you family behind today. I would like to look at this call in a different way: “What binds you to

your OLD life today that hinders you from following God's call?"

Sometimes the baggage of the OLD LIFE keeps us grounded and keeps us from being ready to risk and go out for ministry.

What are the things from the OLD-LIFE that are holding you back?

We see the same pattern of leaving behind the old in the New Testament when Jesus invited James and John, the sons of Zebedee. We read: **And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.** (Mark 1:20 ESV)

2. Readiness to WALK

"So Abram went, as the LORD had told him. (Genesis 12:4a ESV)

People walk when they are motivated. We know people who walk to raise awareness for a certain disease. I know a couple in England Pastor Doug and his wife Sue who walk every year from the North of England to the South to raise money for Syrian and Lebanese children. Something should trigger you to get, stand, be ready and move forward. Abraham received a promise from God. It was a blessing not only to his family but through him to the world, and all nations.

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 12:2-3 ESV)

Let us reflect on this promise. This is not just a nationalistic promise for one nation. In the OT days, it was for a nation, yet if you look at the

whole picture, it belongs to the people of God. This promise is for you and me today. The blessing of Abraham is for all who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, **for all believers from all nations.** This promise is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

While I am thinking about walking, I am reminded of me two passages **about feet and shoes.**

We read in Isaiah:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” (Isaiah 52:7 ESV)

Our feet will walk. Our feet will bring a message. Abraham had received a promise that he would be an instrument of blessing for the world. We also have the call to walk with a message. What is our message?

“Brings good news, peace, happiness, and salvation...” those are the words Isaiah shared.

In Ephesians 6, Paul tells us to arm ourselves when we face the devil with **“the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”** How about the shoes?

“as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.” (Ephesians 6:15 ESV)

John Piper says about this verse:

I think it means, "Let your feet be ready to move with the gospel." Feet are for moving from one place to another. If you put on shoes of readiness, then the idea would seem to be readiness to do what feet are for, namely, moving. And if the readiness is readiness of the gospel it probably means ready to move with the gospel—move with gospel power and for gospel purposes.¹

What motivates you to move and walk? Do your feet bring the Good News to the neighborhood you live in?

3. Day by Day Stay Connected

“Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. (Genesis 12:1 ESV)

In the same verse, I see another lesson to be learned. God does not give a final destination to Abraham. All he says is that He would lead Abraham day by day. **“Get out to a land that I will show you.”**

For seventy-five years Abraham had not received have such a call. He was secure with his family. Now God was challenging him to get out of his comfort zone to **an unknown destination**. This means that every step in his journey Abraham had to be connected to God for guidance. It is like the GPS (Global Positioning System) that needs to be online and connected to the satellite. Sometimes during my driving I enter to a tunnel or an underground parking and the GPS says: “NO Connection.” It worries me suddenly. Where am I going?

We have a divine GPS: **God’s Pointing System**. Abraham had to learn to TRUST God completely. God is in charge, not me.

Illustration: Once a boat was caught in a storm and everyone in the boat was holding tight to something. One boy was very peaceful in the middle of the storm. Someone approached him and asked, “How come you so calm where everyone else are troubled and unsecure in the storm?” He said, “You see I am looking to the bridge of the boat where the captain is working. The captain is my father. I know my father will lead us to a safe place.”

4. A Call for Complete Obedience

Abraham learned in his life to trust God. He had incidents where he tried to save the situation by playing his own smart tricks. He lied about his wife that she was his sister so that the king would not kill them. Those events were lessons that he needed to learn to trust God completely. Yet I think the toughest lesson was when Isaac was born after many years of the promise. Then God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son. That test was so difficult. Abraham obeyed and God spared Isaac and provided the sacrifice. **Strange! God did not allow Abraham to sacrifice his son, but God allowed His only Son Jesus Christ to be a sacrifice for us**, for our sins. How grateful one should be to our Heavenly Father?

Can you trust God when things do not make sense? I don't think God is asking you today to sacrifice your son, but he asking your life to be given for His CALL. And be sure sometimes you will circumstances where it does not make sense. Can you trust HIM completely? If you cannot, just try.... Just ask from the Holy Spirit to help you daily.

1. Separate Yourself from the OLD

2. Readiness to WALK

3. Day-to-Day Stay Connected

4. A Call for Complete Obedience

Let me finish with the scripture:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. (Proverbs 3:5-8 ESV)

1 <http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/ready-to-move-with-the-gospel-of-peace>