

E2E: Part 16 – Abram’s Call

Genesis 12

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1. Through Genesis, we’ve seen humans fail God over and over; disobedience, murder, deception, rebellion, total defiance. These things are true of every generation – we all fall short.
2. After generations of people turning away, God turns to one individual in a new generation. He calls Abram & forges another new beginning.
3. Abraham, like Noah, marks a return to God’s original plan of blessing all mankind.
4. Abram did not always know the true God. There was a time when he was not in relationship with God. Just like you and I, he had done nothing to deserve knowing Him. God graciously called him into relationship. (Genesis 12:1-2)
5. In your walk with God what you bring with you from the old way of life is highly probable to create problems.
6. The first steps of faith are not always giant steps, but Abram trusted God implicitly, not perfectly, but he was ready to respond.
7. By building altars to the Lord, Abram is putting on display his belief in God’s promise. He is not ashamed to worship God openly. (Genesis 12:8)
8. Abram’s life is much bigger than just his life. God is dealing with him not just in a personal capacity, but with a view to future ages. This is a character trait of God – He blesses us so we can be a blessing to others.
9. In a similar way, we are saved by believing God’s promise to us – specifically that He will forgive our sins and provide a future ‘promised land’ to us, only possible through Jesus.

Romans 10:9 - If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

QUOTES

"If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of smoke lost in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly the Jew ought hardly to be heard of; but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his commercial importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk. His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine, and learning, are also way out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in this world, in all ages: and has done it with his hands tied behind him."

~ Mark Twain - 1897

Discussion Questions

1. Humans have failed God over and over. As we learn to live in the truth of God's gracious forgiveness in Jesus many churchgoers can become blind to how we still fail God over and over.

- Are there any areas of your life where God is functionally irrelevant or isn't a factor in how you live? Where does God not receive the attention He deserves within your life?

2. God chose Abram, setting him apart to accomplish His will.

- Can we assume that all of God's redeemed children have been chosen and set apart to accomplish His will somehow?

- Do you think we can know what God wants to accomplish through us as a community, or as an individual? If so...

-- What do you think God wants to accomplish through our New Hope community?

-- What do you think God wants to accomplish through your specific life?

3. Mark says that one of the character traits of God is that He blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others.

- What blessings have you received from God?

- How are you, or can you be a blessing to others? (Note: Within the Bible, a blessing is something that helps someone to see or know God more clearly.)