



His Cross / Your Cross

“Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.” (Genesis 12:1-2)

God Told Abram To Do One Thing

Leave the security of home, country, and relatives. Abram partially obeyed taking his father and nephew.

1. This is discipleship, a test of our love for God. We are to leave mother, father, wives, country, and possessions (Luke 14:26).
 - a. This happens in marriage (Genesis 2:24).
 - b. It happened with Elisha (1 Kings 19:19-21).
2. Jesus told us our new families are those who do the will of the Father (Matthew 12:48-50).
3. Abram was only partially obedient and kept trying to rescue himself before he utterly depended on God.
4. Most blessings in Christian life are conditional.
5. Eight blessings are based on Abram’s obedience to leave his country, relatives, friends, and home.

God Promised 8 Things He Would Do For Total Obedience

1. **I will** show you. The leading of the Spirit.
 - a. Specific guidance tomorrow is based on obedience today.
 - b. If you wonder why God is not speaking now, go back and check if you are doing the last thing He told you to do.
 - c. Specific guidance is a monopoly for disciples.
2. **I will** make of you a great nation. He would do something big in Abraham. God took something already in him and brought it out.
3. **I will** bless you. All blessings, spiritual and natural, come from God.
 - a. Blessings were connected to Abram’s obedience.
 - b. He had to accept the will of God and walk in it. Us too, “the blessing of Abraham *might* come on us.”
4. **I will** make your name great. This is our reputation in the earth as followers of God.
 - a. Dignity is restored to us as reproach is taken.

- b. The most important thing to God is not a title – doctor, bishop, apostle, prophet, or evangelist.
 - c. When God makes your name great, your title is not important (Exodus 18:21).
 - d. You do not have to try to build a legacy.
 - e. Title do not open doors. Obedience opens doors.
5. **I will** make you a blessing.
- a. Abraham was blessed by God to be a blessing.
 - b. People rejoiced to see Abraham coming.
 - c. “Lord, if you are going to bless anyone, bless them through me.”
6. **I will** bless those who bless you.
- a. Because the Lord was his Savior and his protector, Abraham saw others blessed who blessed Him.
 - b. To bless Abraham was to bless the Lord.
 - c. This is blessings by association. Lot and Abraham, Joseph and Potiphar, believing mates sanctify.
 - d. It is fine to hang onto my coat tails. I have hung onto others. Use my shoulders, preach my sermons.
7. **I will** curse those who curse you – *protection*
- a. The Lord saved Abram and protected him.
 - b. To curse you is to curse the Lord.
 - c. God can defend Himself and defend you.
 - d. You do not have to defend yourself.
 - e. Elisha’s army surrounds you.
8. In you **shall** all families of the earth be blessed.
- a. Abraham did not live long enough to see this fulfilled.
 - b. His life is an example of faith today to all nations.
 - c. He is the father of all who believe, not just to the Jew.
 - d. Our life can and should be an example and a blessing to others even after we are gone. Our life is more than physical.
 - e. Our reputation, words, and deeds continue to live on after we are gone.
 - f. Like ripples going out from a rock hitting water.

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“Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers, and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.” (Luke 14:25-27)

- 1. Jesus is not teaching on being a convert, but going beyond, to become a disciple.
- 2. Picking up your cross is part of discipleship.
 - a. A cross is for flesh to die on.

- b. A cross is something you are free to pick up, free to lay down, or free to never pick up at all.
- 3. What was on Jesus' cross will never be on ours.
 - a. What is on ours was never on His.
 - b. We cannot bear what He bore. He will never bear what is on ours.
 - c. Jesus' cross was our redemption.
 - d. Our cross is responsibility, accountability.

“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption;” (Acts 13:36)

- 1. David became the standard for all of Israel's kings.
- 2. David will be a standard for Jesus Himself as King.
- 3. David is still a standard for our Christian life today.
- 4. You can impact your day and those to come if you choose to.