

The Call to SEPARATE

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Main Scriptures: Genesis 12

Supporting Scriptures: Matthew 6: 24-34; Hebrews 11: 8-16; John 14: 2-3; Romans 8: 5-7; 1 Timothy 6: 10; Luke 14:33; Matthew 19: 21

Notes:

May the Lord help us to live spirit-filled lives. A life that's after the heart of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Abram was not a being from heaven he was a mortal man what changed Abram's life was the word of God. It was the word of God that changes individuals, the word can't do anything unless an individual obeys it and act on it. The word to Abram was to separate himself to land he didn't see. How can you move when you have not seen it? However, the Lord appeared to him these are the words that the Lord gave him. It's one thing if someone says I will give you a property in Woodbridge (that's specific) it's easier to believe something like that. But Abram is called to move by faith without knowing where he will end up.

Our Master demands everything. There is an easier life for the believer than us taking life into our own hands. Contrast the life of an individual who is concerned about what they will eat drink and wear and he hand-picks one of the birds and the Lord says that creature doesn't sow to reap the fruit of their labor and they don't store up for the later days of their lives they don't gather in barns yet your heavenly Father is so in touch with them and makes sure there is food for them. For the man that thinks he needs to plan out his life, he asks the question in Matthew 6: 27 -28. When compared to Solomon the simple lily is said to be more beautifully arrayed. If God takes care of the grass why is it that we don't believe He will also take care of us. God knows the needs of men, he knows the needs of everyone he calls into the kingdom. If we apply the principle of God first then everything else God will take care of it.

One of the challenges we have is the fear or the inability to believe in God for everything in life. Not only in this life but also in the life to come. Abram is asked to take your eyes off your Fathers possession and the security of family and culture and norms at the age of 75. At that time He was a middle-aged man and is asked to pack up everything and leave. One of the challenges we face is the challenge of wealth and money. It a challenge because the bible speaks of the deceitfulness of riches. Abram is told to move on, the security of having his cattle and servants and place of comfort to follow after God, uncertain if his riches will be decreased and what the future holds. Most of Us are challenged to give God all because we are fearing that in the end, we will end up in the worst state than we were before. Most of us worry about wealth and provisions and money. I know, no one has to say amen, in this life we are told by the system of this world that money is the gold. We need it to have a comfortable life. We need it to survive and answer all our needs and desires. Money and comfort. But let's look at Abram's life, when God spoke to Abram it was an attack on his comfort. When he called him, He was taking him out of his comfort zone.

Abram departed and took his wife and Lot and all their substance. We see that God did not just appear to Abram and ask him to leave. God made a promise to him in Genesis 12: 2 -3.

If Abram believed God he would then receive the promise and so he obeyed and departed as the Lord had spoken to him. One of the challenges we have is that the word of the Lord, the call comes to us but we

want to interpret or process the call to reason out what the Lord is saying according to how we have been trained in this world. But the call of God is eternal. It is eternity invading time, divinity making an impact on man. The wisdom of this world can not process the call of God. A lot of us stumble by trying to process it using the wisdom of this world.

I feel the presence of the Lord stopping at this point to ask a question - What is hindering us from progressing?

What stops us from moving as the Lord had spoken to us?

Abram was looking for a city whose foundations and builder and maker, is God. His mind is on things eternal. (Hebrews 8: 10)

The bible said that Abram left all and he is moving through the land of Canaan. He sees beyond the material world, the same promise is made to us in John 14: 2-3.

There are two kinds of riches and I believe Abram recognized his very quickly.

1. The earthly riches

- cars, houses, land, luxury - these ultimately become our master and this is why the Lord says you can't have two masters because the more you store is the more you are enslaved by what you acquire and store up.

2. Eternal riches - the end goal of the believer, who is absolutely convinced that everything in this world is passing away.

Jesus says don't set our eyes on mind and energy and effort on these treasures that are fading away. There is wealth on earth and if it's our focus then we become compromised and we can't give God our all. It is easy to covet earthly things - the things we can see and handle and what most people are seeking after. It's easy to fall in line with the norms but it takes effort to walk outside of the norm.

Romans 8: 5-7

Have you seen folks that are against what the Lord is doing some folks are hostile to it because their mind is given to the things of this earth.

The Earthly riches are present and we can get it now sometimes even if we don't have the money. But earthly riches are corruptible and in this realm and everything in this realm is passing away. An example is the bitcoin that goes up and down on the stock market. You can trust it, everything will decay. It has the element of corruption in it. When Abram packed up to leave he was not worried about that. The life of Abraham will tell us there is security in honoring the word of God in this realm our need will be met. Maybe not as the norms of this world.

My deceased uncle said there was a time when we packed up his job and took on his full-time ministry in Santa Cruz. At one point there was no money in the church and there were bills to be paid but there is a call to go to Santa Cruz in which he honored. One morning he woke up and a call pulled into the church and put his foot on the tire and he was dressed nicely and he looked around and said who's in charge here and the man looked at him and said look at you, you look broke and he looked at the place and he took three bags out of his car and threw it down at my uncle's feet and said fix up this place and fix up yourself. He slammed his door and drove off never to be seen again. He fixed up the church and paid its bills and

had change left. God will honor his call. The man who moves by faith does not have to travel with insecurity. The riches of this world can waste away.

1 Timothy 6: 10

Abram was after the heavenly riches and was given to the call of God. These riches are eternal, when we die we don't lose them. If you're a millionaire, you will die today and lose your money. But the heavenly riches thieves can not take it away it is secure. A man must be prepared to leave everything to follow Jesus.

Luke 14:33; Matthew 19:21

I wonder what it would be if we started to act in obedience, there would be such a great move of God if we were sold out to God. Will there be a few given to revival and given to separate themselves for a move of God we have never seen. Don't you see that God walks with the man who honors his word? There is nothing that can stop a man that is walking with the Lord. We worry about witches and strongholds, brother we need to give our minds totally to the Lord and walk with him. Abram went up against kings with just his household and conquered them because the Lord is with him. No powers of darkness can stop the believer from walking with the Lord.

Jesus recognized the threat of money and wealth on an individual called to serve the God of Abram a person has to decide to not go after things in this world and live by the principle.

Everyone will have to make that decision that they will live out of the hands of the Lord that what He blesses me with I will be satisfied and won't allow the spirit of greed to invade my life.

We are stewards of money and not to be mastered by money. God gives us wealth for us not to store it up for ourselves. We need to get our minds from a selfish attitude. Why am I storing up my wealth when there are many around me with a need and I am not meeting those needs. Why am I rich if I can not meet the needs of others, have I asked the Lord what to do?

There is a thin line that borders on idolatry, wealth will handcuff us and money has the ability to be masters over our lives. Abram's children ended up in Egypt as slaves for 400 years. All the favor they had they lost it. All those years in Goshen they were increasing in wealth, how could they become trapped by wealth and forget the promise? Egypt is not the destination Caanan is the destination but God brought them through slavery to free them.

When we understand that we are the steward of money and not be mastered by money then our outlook is different. If we believe we can make money by working more and more then such a person will always build bigger barns and not look out for others.

Scripture does not tell us why Abram was called. In man dwells no good thing, nothing qualifies us. He is coming from a house of idolatry and God calls him. Just like us, we didn't do anything for God to choose us it was simply by the grace of God. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. All were shaped in iniquity. Is He coming from a godly lineage? yes but that's not why God called him. God chooses men, Obedience was what was required. God called Abram and Abram like everyone else is born in sin.

We must understand that God is sovereign there is none on the earth that does good, there is nothing that man can bring to the table to be called of God. The Lord will take the base things of the earth and chose them and when we look we cant see one reason why but it's the Lord's choice. When the Lord chose you and gives you his word if you connect your mind to the word, the word will carry you like he carried Abram and his children and his children's children into the promised land.