

Center UMC-The Year of the Bible
Genesis 10-26 (Key verses: Genesis 12:1-5)
New Beginnings: It's Never Too Late For God
Rev. Daniel D. Rasmussen - January 10, 2010

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land I will show you. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you. So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth-his livestock and all the people he had taken into his household at Haran - and headed for the land of Canaan.

Does God ever ask too much from His creation?
Does God ever over-estimate our ability?

Promise → Restrictions/qualifications → Result → And then Grace

In Genesis 11 we hear man say: this will make us famous..."

In Genesis 12, we hear God say: I will bless you and make you famous.

Abraham cannot stay where he is and be a blessing. His blessing involves going... what does that say to us?

In this story we find: an imperative: Go!
Followed by a triple object moving from the general to the specific:

Go from your native country → your homeland (your relatives) → your father's house (your father's family).

Imperative: Go! Followed by a triple object:
Take your son → your only son → yes, Isaac, whom you love

Abraham is not to stay in Haran any more than Noah was to stay in the Ark.
"Show" becomes "give" when Abraham moves forward!

For Noah, the Ark was the vehicle to the new land.

For Abraham, faith was the vehicle to the new land.

So how did Abraham know the voice of God?

Moses' pentad of questions/objections:

- 1) Who am I that you should call Me?**
- 2) Or to God: What did You say Your Name was?**
- 3) Or I really don't have enough credibility!**
- 4) Or, I don't speak well enough!**
- 5) Or, Just ask someone else!**

What did Moses not say?

What did Abraham not say?

_____ ?

_____ ?

It is never too late for God!

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