

Roots of Saving Faith Pt. 2

Genesis 12:1-9 Sunday AM, September 1, 2024

Prelude – Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9 (NASB95) Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.” 4 So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan. 6 Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was then in the land. 7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him. 8 Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. 9 Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev.

Last week, we started our look at this passage, being drawn to Abraham as a biblical hero of faith. And yet, as of last week, all we heard of Abram was his action in verse 4. He went. Preceding that action were words of God. Words of command to separate from, a calling towards, and then a five-fold blessing in line with the commands. These blessings were not merely a wish for a good life, but as Matthews noted, God’s promises were **an avalanche of blessing cascading in wave after wave on the patriarch and his children yet to come.** Matthews, p. 105 God graciously pours blessing on His creation, and those awakened to see His work see blessings before them, all around them, and ahead of them. Church, sing praise to God who reigns above the God of all creation!

*Hymn #6: Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Abram responds to God’s call with obedience. He separates from things that were dear, things that were familiar, things that made life good and make sense. And such it is with obedience—there is something/someOne higher than doing what seems natural, something more important than what seems or feels right. Hopefully, there is something desirable in the one calling us to obey. For those yielding to God with biblical faith, there is ALWAYS One worthy of our willing obedience, for He not only calls us to obey, but He rewards those who trust Him. The youth group sang this on the winter trip. Learn and remember these words.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Things We Leave Behind

*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn D.

Scripture: Luke 8:9–25 (NASB95) His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant. 10 And He said, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND. 11 “Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God. 12 “Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved. 13 “Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away. 14 “The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity. 15 “But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance. 16 “Now no one after lighting a lamp covers it over with a container, or puts it under a bed; but he puts it on a lampstand, so that those who come in may see the light. 17 “For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light. 18 “So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him.” 19 And His mother and brothers came to Him, and they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd. 20 And it was reported to Him, “Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, wishing to see You.” 21 But He answered and said to them, “My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.” 22 Now on one of those days Jesus and His disciples got into a boat, and He said to them, “Let us go over to the other side of the lake.” So they launched out. 23 But as they were sailing along He fell asleep; and a fierce gale of wind descended on the lake, and they began to be swamped and to be in danger. 24 They came to Jesus and woke Him up, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And He got up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm. 25 And He said to them, “Where is your faith?” They were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, “Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?”

Offering: *Doxology:

Our passage today ends with travel, God’s affirming presence and promise, and the work of formal worship. And such is the life of all those who follow God with biblical faith—living according to His commands, God’s affirming presence and promise, and the work of formal worship. And when we do this as God intends, like a light on a lampstand, we are seen and God is praised. And such is God’s intent for His people--that they see Him and His works on their behalf, are grateful, and tell those around so they too can know God and proclaim His great goodness. Church, praise the Lord here, at home, and wherever you go!

*Hymn (Powerpoint): May the Peoples Praise You

You may be seated. The life of biblical faith is a life of worship—living coram Deo (in the face of God) includes daily, intentional individual/corporate worship. It includes friends, brothers/sisters, spouse, co-workers, relatives and neighbors seeing you live and speak in a way that shows the greatness and goodness of God. How will they see this? Note the place of the Word of God in our Scripture reading. There is a definitive way the word is to work in our lives so that there is fruit, so that light is seen, so that we prove that we are God’s family, and so that we remember exactly WHO our God is when faced with great fear and situations where there seems to be no way out. What did Jesus mean when he asked the disciples, “Where is your faith” after Jesus calmed the storm. What were they to believe? That He was able to keep them alive in a storm? Was there anything else? Our worship and lives of worship MUST be in accord with God’s revealed word. Does your life show that you honor His word? Are His words on the front of your mind? Not merely the right and wrong resulting from those words, but His words present because He is worthy of reverent and willing worship. Pray for your love for God to grow in this way as we prepare to hear more of Abram’s example of biblical faith.

*Hymn #249: Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Message: Roots of Saving Faith Pt. 2 Gen. 12:1-9

Catch glimpses of Abram’s God as we watch him obey and worship. Do this and you will see more of God’s love to mankind—God’s love for you! remember Elizabeth Prentiss’ words? “To love Christ more – this is the deepest need, the constant cry of my soul. Down in the bowling alley, and out in the woods, and on my bed, and out driving, when I am happy and busy, and when I am sad and idle, the whisper keeps going up for more love, more love, more love!”

*Hymn #323 (Red): More Love to Thee

*Prayer