



Abraham

Like Noah, Abraham was asked to do something never done before. Noah was asked to prepare for rain. Rain? What is that? Yet, Noah built an ark that God designed for something Noah did not know. Abraham was asked to leave his home town for a land he did not know. To top that off, to follow a God he did not know. The land of the Chaldeans was not Jewish, Hebrew, or Christian. It was a land of many Gods that had many different customs. By faith Abraham listened to one God and left the land of his fathers.

Would you leave your home and go where God led you? I am astounded that Abraham left. Some of my research says the Chaldeans were a rich nation. Abraham did not leave that area empty handed. Yet, by faith he traveled to an unknown land of Canaan. How did Abraham know the God of the heavens? Somehow and some way Abraham gained a relationship with the Lord. God blessed him wherever he went because of his faith to act when God called.

Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback church did the same thing. A young pastor felt called to California. He did not even know where to go. All Rick Warren knew was that God called him to Southern California. God blessed this pastor for his faith. My own pastor did the same thing. He uprooted his family (by faith) and started a church in a town he did not know. This church is thriving in unprecedented numbers. By faith they were all were asked and acted.

Jesus told a man to pick up his mat and walk. Did he know who Jesus was? The answer is no, but he acted in faith. Abraham was a nomad. He picked up his tent and walked. It says in Hebrews 11 that he became a stranger in a foreign land. Yet, because of the faith of Abraham we have a line to Jesus. They call Abraham the father of nations. His offspring will be as numerous as the stars. He is the father of the Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Three religions began by a man who acted by faith.

Paul says in Hebrews 11 that Abraham went because of a promise. That his offspring would be a great nation. This 75-year-old man had no children. That seems crazy, yet he went. It is a promise that God honored. In Romans 4:3 it says “For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” Righteousness in Greek leans towards acceptable or correct thinking. When God approached Abraham, this man was open to listen. He heard God and believed it. Maybe Abraham was smarter than we know. He could see the future with this God.

If there is one name that is given glory throughout the Bible it is Abraham. Many verses spread all throughout the Bible call this man father, servant, friend, and seed. God also called this man alive. Clearly Abraham is dead. Yes, but his seed lives on just as God said it would. So many verses praise Abraham. The Muslims praise Abraham. Men like Noah and Abraham are special. They see what is in front of them and made a decision. As Paul says (by faith) because they never saw the outcome.

How big is this man’s faith? He was willing to listen to God in every instruction. To sacrifice his son. Leave his country and even take the land that was less appealing. Abraham encountered three men. Some believe that they were God the Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit in the flesh. The Bible does not say. Yet, clearly Abraham noticed that these men were holy and

powerful. It is incredible that Abraham negotiated with them to save his brother's son Lot. Abraham is bold, daring and very gutsy in all he did.

How can we be faithful like this man? Maybe we think too much. What if we just did what God told us? We say that God does not always tell us what to do. That we wait, fast, and pray. Yet, in first Corinthians 10:13 it says "*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*"

Notice it says "who will not suffer you to be tempted." That means all we have to do is listen like Abraham and act. What if Abraham did not want to go? Clearly Lot and his wife did not choose a godly area to live in. Lot's wife did not want to go. All she had to do was listen. Abraham knew the voice of God. He trusted that voice. The voice that says do not marry that girl. Do not take that job. Maybe it said to move to Detroit. Yet, we hesitate. It is something that Noah and Abraham did not do. By faith they went where God needed them to be and they were blessed beyond the numerous stars and sands of the sea.