

“Called FROM...People, Places and Situations”
Genesis 12:1-5 (NIV)
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About above across after against along amid among around as at
Before behind below beneath beside besides between beyond but by
Concerning down during except excluding for from in into of on onto over since
Than through to toward towards under underneath until up upon
Versus via with within without

50 of the most common prepositions. There are somewhere around 150 prepositions.
Prepositions are important. Prepositions are words that connect. It is important that we connect.
We need to be connected TO God and connect WITH people.

We begin a new sermon series today on prepositions. Huh. Someone may ask the question:
About???? XXX glad you asked and ABOUT is a good preposition. Our sermon series is
indeed about connecting *to* God and *with* people.

Actually, we began part 1 of the series in November with a series of 3. This is part 2, a series of
three, and then later in the year another series of three.

Called BY---God
Called TO---be followers of Jesus
Called AS---we are.
Called FROM---people, places and situations.

With no apologies you will notice that the first word of each of the sermons is “Called.” As we
develop a culture of Call within our congregation, I need you to know, embrace, and own that
each of you, each of us is called. You are never too young or too old to be called.

As we look at “Called FROM people, places and situations let’s look at the call of Abram. Now
we often say Abraham, but his name was not changed by God until the story found in Chapter
17 of Genesis.

**Genesis 12:1-5 New International Version (NIV) 12 The LORD had said to Abram, “Go
from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.**

Abram is called FROM his people, his country (place), and called from the situation he knew to
the land that God would show him.

Being called is scary. To some degree it is a journey into the unknown and unfamiliar.

With Abram’s call God gives his several promises. Actually, it is a sevenfold structure.

²(#1) **“I will make you into a great nation, and (#2) I will bless you, (#3) I will make your name great, and (#4) you will be a blessing. ³(#5) I will bless those who bless you, and (#6) whoever curses you I will curse, and (#7) all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”**

God’s blessing to humanity would be restored through Abraham and his offspring. These promises were reaffirmed to not only Abraham but also Isaac, and to Moses. The 7th promise is quoted in the New Testament book of Acts (3:12, 25) when Peter is talking to Jewish listeners. And in Galatians (3:8) with Paul and his Gentile listeners.

Galatians 3:8 New International Version (NIV) ⁸Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.

ALL people, all nations will be blessed through Abraham.

No pressure, but what if Abram would not have responded to the call. “No, God I don’t think I will go. I’m comfortable here. I just got this new ram, Dodge RAM, and well things are going well and you are calling me to go to uncharted territory.” Maybe at this point he had a cup of Jehovah Java, because we find this in the next verse.

⁴**So Abram went, as the LORD had told him;** Our world would be different, our faith would have been impacted if Abram didn’t go. He was called FROM the people he knew. Oh, he took his wife Sarai and nephew Lot. Now I wondered how he explained that to them. Uh, God has called me and well, well...let’s go!

Abram was called from the place that he was familiar with. He was called from his home to make a new home.

Abram was called from the situation where he was wealthy and somewhat in charge to a situation where any many ways, he was a nobody.

What would happen today if people did not respond and with the call God gives them? What if we don’t go? Do you realize it could impact negatively the faith of others and perhaps even generations to come?

Now did you notice it said in verse 4 that Abram was 75 years old when he set out from Haran! Beloved God’s call does not stop just because you may be retired. God’s call is for all ages.

Abram’s call from people, places and situations meant both an ending and a new beginning. By faith he left knowing that he was responding to God’s call. For him there was humanly and realistically a bit of grief knowing that he was leaving. And at the same time there was an excitement of what new beginnings were going to take place.

Have you ever noticed the mixture of both joy and sadness at graduations? Woo-hoo they made it!! What joy!!! Sadness...by child is growing up. What is next? They are going to be facing the real world now.

Also, the same at marriages. I probably don't have to ask how many have ever cried at weddings. Tears of joy or sadness. Yes. Both. An ending and yet a new beginning. When God and the Bishop call me to serve a church there is both a sadness and gladness. Part of me grieves as we leave a church that we have invested time and loved, and had the privilege of serving. We have developed relationships and put down roots. However, at the same time when we receive the Call to go to another church there is a gladness and joy of what is yet to come. A loss of what we know and calling to a new beginning.

Yes, an ending, but a new beginning.
 From singleness to marriage.
 From employment to retirement.
 From grief to a new normal
 From hurt to realization that God is with you.
 From loss to newness.

Where is God calling you? What is He calling you From? What is He calling you to?

A young farmer, standing in his field and observes a peculiar cloud formation. The clouds form the letters G, P, and C, and he thinks them a call from God: GPC=*Go preach Christ!*

The farmer rushes to his church and insists that he has been called to preach. The Board is respectful of his call so they invite him to fill the pulpit and preach.

That Sunday, the sermon is long, tedious, virtually incoherent. When it finally ends, the leaders sit in stunned silence. Finally, a wizened saint of the church mutters to the would-be preacher, "Seems to me the clouds were saying: GPC= 'Go plant corn.'"

Beloved we each have to find our calling.

God called Samuel out of deep sleep.
 God called Esther "for such a time as this."
 God called Jonah (as reluctant as he was) to go preach.
 God called the shepherd David to face a giant.
 God called Mary to give birth to the Savior.
 God called Peter to be the rock.
 God called Paul on the road to Damascus to be one of the greatest influencers of Christianity.

Jesus called blind Bartimaeus to see.
 Jesus called the lame to walk.
 Jesus called Lazarus from the dead.

Jesus calls you!!!!

God doesn't call the qualified He qualifies the called. **(image)**

(Not sure who gave the original quote, it's been used by Henry Blackaby, Mark Batterson and Max Lucado.)

What is God calling you from? What is God calling you to?

Calling you from old ways. Calling you from your losses. Calling you from what has ended. And He calls you INTO new relationships and new places.

We are living in calling. We always need to be listening to what God is calling us from and what God is calling us to. God is calling you.

1 Peter 2:10 New International Version (NIV) ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Called from a sinful life into a relationship with God. Called from a life without grace into a life with mercy. Woo-hoo! We are called. Turn your neighbor and say, "You are called." Xxxxx

You are called from people. Abram was called I'm sure away from friends to meet new friends. Is God calling you from people? Maybe God is calling you away from some people because they are bad and negative influence on you. Maybe God is calling you away from that same table you set out in the Multi-Purpose Room to a new table to meet new friends. (Ah---oh treading on the sacred donut time!)

Is God calling you from certain places? The classic TV show Hee Haw which actually was on for 26 seasons was known for it's corny humor. I guess that's why I liked it so much. In one episode Doc Campbell is confronted by a patient who says he broke his arm in two places. The Doc Campbell replies, "Well then, stay out of them places!"

Is God calling you from certain places? Friends there simply may be some places that God is simply telling you to stay out of. Are you listening to His calling?

You are called from situations. You may find yourself in a situation where you are struggling. Perhaps God is calling you into a new environment. Maybe you are in a situation where you have become too comfortable and God is calling you to take a risk.

Abram left some family, left the familiar, and left a foreseen future. He had to make and end to start a new beginning. Here in the first month of 2019 what new beginning is He calling you to? Hopefully and prayerfully to Do No Harm. Do All the Good You Can. And to Stay in Love with God. Those my friends should be givens.

But now what about the next step and living *in* calling. Ah there's a preposition. IN

Yes, an emphasis on prepositions.

Called BY God.

Called TO be followers of Jesus.

Called AS we are.

Called FROM people, places and situations.

Let's continue to explore where God is calling.

Next week. Called FOR.

We are called by God to be followers of Jesus as we are. We are called from people, places and situations. We are called for Service and Work. Join us next week.

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