

CTW: Psalm 11

Reading: Genesis 12:1-8

AGD: An exercise I've done before is asking teams to write birth announcements and obituaries

Our progress in life is not just measured in what we begin but what we end.

1. Abram and Sarai left a lot (well actually they brought a Lot too but you know what I mean)
  - a. Familiarity
  - b. Comfort
  - c. Security
2. There are other notable departures in Scripture
  - a. Lot leaves Sodom—on the warning of angels
  - b. Ruth leaves her homeland to stay with her mother-in-law Naomi—from the tug of the heart
  - c. Mary and Joseph leave Judea—on the basis of a dream
  - d. The Magi leave the East—on study and a guiding star
3. And to chose one thing is to abandon another—its called opportunity cost
  - a. To live in one place is to not live in another
  - b. To marry one person is to not marry any other (and to not marry one is to be open to another)
  - c. Choices define us
    - i. Few pivotal choices
    - ii. But the accumulation of choices
    - iii. Abram has several choices---each one requiring a choice of obedience
4. God's Directions are often part clear and part undefined
  - a. Go...to the land that I will show you.
  - b. Enough to act on
  - c. We don't like the undefined
    - i. But maybe it would warp us to know it
    - ii. Maybe, like Abram and Sara did "to help God out" we would make a mess of it
    - iii. Perhaps its not even possible without our steps of faith
    - iv. Or maybe your heavenly Father just wants to know if you trust Him
  - d. We know God challenges our faith
    - i. Christian from Saudia Arabia—"The Teachers is always silent during the test"
    - ii. "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great..."
    - iii. God keeps His promises
5. But maybe we are not so faithful in action
  - a. Vs 4 "So Abram went, as the Lord had told him"
  - b. Abram's faith was reckoned to him as righteousness
  - c. Faith is always an action
    - i. Sometimes we avoid the choice to avoid the risk of failure
  - d. On the way God shows up , "To your offspring I will give this land."
  - e. And Abram worshipped

CLOSE

God has a plan for your life. And it will include some departures. There are some things you will have to leave to get to where God wants you to be.

We ask for directions but many times what we want most are reassurances of security. I can give you some good ways to measure whether you are really in step with God.

- When you look around and you don't have the resources to do what you feel called to do.
- When God has spoken in a mysterious way that is clear in one element and nebulous in most others.
- When you would have to leave sometime else important.

God is worth more than anything you would have to sacrifice. Let me encourage you to pack up your stuff and leave.