

Not Giving Up

Genesis 12:1-5, 10-20

Genesis: Front Door to the Bible.

Not Giving Up

- Where do you look to find identity?
- Who are the people who shape your identity?

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- Following God reorders all our allegiances and relationships.
- Our relationship with God become our priority and defining relationship.

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- Whose name are you trying to make great? God's or your own?
- God isn't after people with great names, He is after faithful people.

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- God promises to bless Abram and make his name great.
- In return, Abram is to bless others.
- The blessings of God are to flow through Abram to those around him.
- God chooses to include us in the carrying out His plan for the world.

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- What is hindering the blessing of God from flowing to the people around you?

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Abram's plan:

- Say you're my sister- lie and deceive. Risk the promise to be made into a great nation and worse could happen.
- I don't want to die, and by saying you're my sister they will treat me well and I won't die.
- I don't trust God to protect me.
- I'm looking out for myself.

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What happened to Abram's plan:

- Pharaoh is told Sarai is Abram's sister and Pharaoh takes her to be his wife.
- Abram lies and deceives the Egyptians, sends Sarai into a marriage and commits adultery, puts the promise of God at risk, doubts God, and looks out for himself.
- AND he profits from all his sin.
- Pharaoh gets punished for Abram's sin.
- Abram gets to keep all the rewards.

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Who is this God - YahWeh?

- God is committed to working through people He chooses to bring about his plan and promises.
- Our sin doesn't catch God off guard. He already knows it's there.
- God is committed to working in each person over their lifetime to restore the image of God in them.

Not Giving Up

- God's justice doesn't always make sense.
- Sometimes God's justice:
 - is delayed
 - is less than what it should be
 - never comes in this life
 - even seems wrong when someone profits from sin

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“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Isaiah 55:8–9 NIV

Not Giving Up

- Know that God is committed to working through you to reach and bless others. Your sin does not disqualify you from being used by God. He is a God who redeems.
- Know that God is committed to working in you to become the person He created you to be - formed in the imaged of God.
- Just as God will not give up on you - who are you tempted to give up on because of their falling short?
- Will you commit to walking with them, blessing them so they can become the person God has created them to be in Christ?

Genesis 12:1-5, 10-20

¹ The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

² “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.

¹¹ As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, “I know what a beautiful woman you are.

¹² When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me but will let you live.

³ Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you.”

¹⁴ When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman.

¹⁵ And when Pharaoh’s officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace.

¹⁶ He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

¹⁷ But the LORD inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram's wife Sarai.

¹⁸ So Pharaoh summoned Abram. "What have you done to me?" he said. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife?"

¹⁹ Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!"

²⁰ Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.