

A BLESSING

Genesis 12:1-3



SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, we looked at God's call to Abram to leave his country, his family, and his way of life in order to follow God and be blessed to be a blessing. Though we are used to a very transient lifestyle, moving several places in our lifetime, this was extremely uncommon back then. To leave his country and his family was scandalous. Typically, those that left their homeland were those that were exiled, enslaved by another nation. And yet, God tells Abram to go and leave his home. Though some of us may be called to go and leave our home, another way for us to apply this is to consider the "way of life" that God has called us to leave. Perhaps it may be success as we see it or the lifestyle that we desire. Maybe it is the "idols of our day" or the gods of our country. What is the "country" that we have not yet departed from. We are reminded that this world is not our home, but we are temporarily passing through as we ultimately find our home in God.

Secondly, God tells Abram that he will show him where to go. In other words, God tells Abram to be sensitive to His leading. We too are to be people that are sensitive to His leading. What are ways in which we struggle to hear God? Sometimes we just don't know how to hear him. Other times, we have sin in our lives that prevent us from listening and obeying. Sometimes we are just outright distracted. May we cultivate a lifestyle of being sensitive to the leading of God.

Lastly, God tells Abram that He will bless him so that he could be a blessing to all nations. This promise with Abram reflects the heart of God. He desires to bless us, not just when we die with an eternal home, but in the here and now. If we are following God, we can expect His blessing in the here and now. But with great blessing comes great commissioning. We are called to be a blessing to many. May we experience His blessing, the Kingdom of God in San Diego as we also seek to be a blessing to the city around us.



OUTLINE

1 LEAVING OUR "HOME"

Some of us may be called from our physical homes, but all of us are called to follow God in leaving our 'old' way of life in following Him. Perhaps our values or our successes or the lifestyle we desire do not line up with God's desires. As God calls us to go, there will be sacrifice in the leaving, but nothing compared to the glory of following Him.

2 BEING SENSITIVE TO HIS LEADING

We need to follow God according to His ways, His timing, and His direction. This requires great sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. Yet we know there are many barriers to that sensitivity. Sometimes it's a lack of understanding on how God speaks. Other times it could be persistent sin that hinders us from hearing and obeying. Perhaps one of the biggest hindrances are the distractions of life that we partake in that prevents us from walking towards the calling of God.

3 BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

God wants to bless us. Sometimes we are allergic to that statement (as we are reminded of the prosperity gospel). But His desire is to truly bless us. But it doesn't stop there. With great blessing comes great calling, and as much as He desires to bless us, He desires to use us to be a blessing to the many around us, for His glory.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

What kind of life has God told you to leave behind?

2

What does it look like to live our lives as strangers, exiles, temporary interims in this world?

3

How often do you let God lead your ship and major decisions in your life? How often do you try to do God's will your way?

4

Which hindrance to hearing His leading do you experience the most? Consider how you can overcome these hindrances.

5

Do you believe that God wants to bless you? What keeps you from receiving His blessing? Do you believe God wants to use you to bless others? What does that look like?



BIG IDEA

God calls us to leave our 'old' way of life to follow Him and the glorious inheritance that He has for us. That requires a great deal of sacrifice as we often don't know where God is leading, but if we choose to follow in faith, He promises that He will be with us and that He will be our great reward. As we follow Him in this life, we need to be sensitive to His leading. Hearing His voice and how He is leading is so essential to following Him, and we ought to cast aside any hindrance that prevents us from hearing from Him. Finally, God's heart is to bless us. As we follow Him, we experience His blessings. First and foremost, we experience the greatest blessing of His presence. Many other blessings follow as well, but as people of God who have experienced blessing, we are to be a blessing to those around us as well. May we be people that are blessed to be a blessing.