

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 20th March 2022
Sermon Title: I am sending you...to be a blessing to all nations
Bible Passage: Genesis 12: 1 - 9

Introduction

Take time to read the passage from a couple of different translations.

- What do you think the word blessing means?
- Are there any questions this passage raises?

Recapping the Preach

Stu used the illustration throughout of Genesis 12 being acted out on a stage. He described the backdrop of sin and rebellion that marred God's good creation and that Genesis 12 marked a pivotal turning point. Act 1 is 'God's choosing of Abram' - this was done without any merit on Abram's part but solely because of God's goodness and mission to bring blessing to the nations.

- Make a list of people that God chose to work through in the Old Testament and the work He asked them to do. What credentials did they have?
- Why do you think God chose Abram? Do you think he has any credentials or pre-existing relationship with God?
- Read Ephesians 2:1-10 - what does this tell us about the nature of God's choosing us?
- What should our response to God's choosing be?

Act 2 was titled 'The choice of Abram' and Stu pointed out that Abram's had to choose for himself and that his choice was not necessarily an easy one. He had to leave behind family, land and his inheritance and trust that God would do what He said.

- There were several obstacles which might have hindered Abram choosing to follow God - what were they?
- What is the choice that is presented to us by Jesus in Luke 9:23? Do you think this is a one time choice?
- Read Genesis 15:6 - what do you think this means? How do the New Testament writers apply this to our relationship with Jesus?
- Why does Paul call Genesis 12:1-3 the 'gospel announced in advance' in Galatians 3:8?

Act 3 'The challenge of Abram' had Abram sharing some wisdom for us as we are sent to be a blessing to all nations. 1) there will be wheat and tares 2) you have to leave in order to go 3) the blessing of God moves forward on the wheels of our obedience.

- What are the obstacles you face living for Jesus on your frontline? How can these be overcome?
- What things of the 'world' do we need to leave behind in order to follow Jesus more fully?
- What do you think Stu meant by 'the blessing of God moves forward on the wheels of obedience'? Can you think of examples in Scripture where you see this happening?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- How can you bring blessing to people on your front-line this week?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>