

...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembly together...but encouraging one another.
Heb 10:24-25

Share the teaching
Guard the sharing

Male Call

February 12, 2010—The Jesus Way—Abraham

6:00 – 6:05	Coffee & Donuts—Opening Prayer
6:05 – 7:00	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>****Valentines Day is Sunday****</p> </div> <p>“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” —Jesus (John 14:6)</p> <p>1) Role Models</p> <p>a) The men and women depicted in the Bible can instruct us on the various ways these people lived life the Jesus way.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">[God] had Abraham take a walk, Elijah take a nap, Joshua take a lap, and Adam take the rap.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">He gave Moses a forty-year time out, he gave David a harp and a dance, and he gave Paul a pen and a scroll.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">He wrestled with Jacob, argued with Job, whispered to Elijah, warned Cain, and comforted Hagar.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">He gave Aaron an alter, Miriam a song, Gideon a fleece, Peter a name, and Elisha a mantle.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Jesus was stern with the rich young ruler, tender with the woman caught in adultery, patient with the disciples, blistering with the scribes, gentle with the children, and gracious with the thief on the cross.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">God never grows two people in the same way. God is a hand-crafter, not a mass producer...<i>God does not do one-size-fits-all.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Now it is your turn.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">God has existed from all eternity—but he has never had a relationship with you before. He wants to do a new thing with you.¹</p> <p>2) Abraham (Abram)</p> <p>a) A man of faith</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i) Hebrews 11:8, 13</p> <p>b) Tested by God</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i) Genesis 12-24</p>

¹ *The Me I Want To Be.* 49-50.

3) Abram (Abraham)

a) Why him?

- i) Genesis 11:10, 27, 29
- ii) 75 years old!...Genesis 12:4

Abraham had no Bible and no hymnal. He had no church and no godly religious traditions for guidance. He could not turn to a minister or an evangelist for spiritual help. Abraham had only his own empty, hungry heart. That and the manifestation of the God who reveals Himself to men and women who desire to find Him and know Him!²

iii) Abraham following the Jesus way:

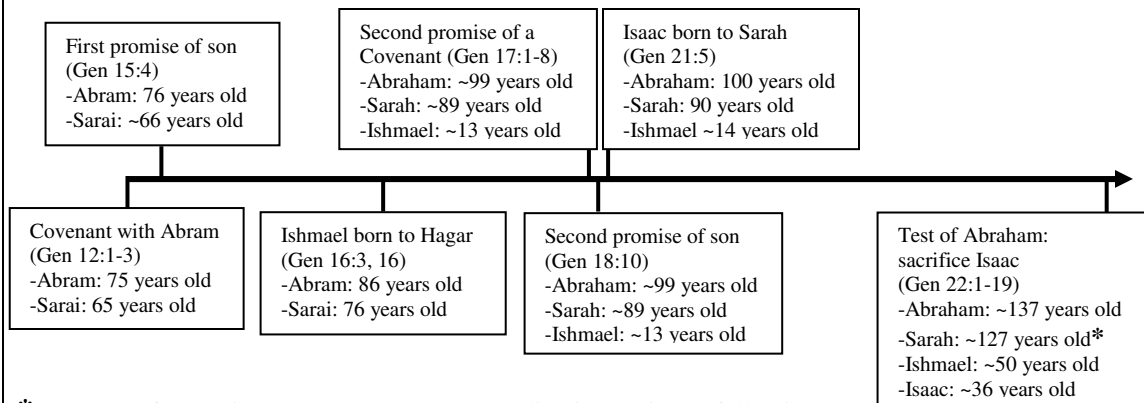
- (1) Jesus had this kind of heart—John 5:19

b) God appears and makes a 3-fold promise:

- i) Genesis 12:1-3
 - (1) From one man;
 - (2) Will come a great nation;
 - (3) And all families will be blessed.
- ii) All he had to do was to LEAVE HIS COUNTRY AND RELATIVES AND GO...then, the promise would come true and...
 - (1) Abram would be blessed
 - (2) Would be a blessing
- iii) God says, “Trust me on this...go”

c) So, Abram went

- i) *Fast forward* to what Abraham is famous for—his willingness to sacrifice his son
- ii) Genesis 22:1—“after these things” (better translated as “after these words with God”)
- iii) What “things” or “words”?
 - (1) Detective work—approximate timeline:



* The text of Genesis 23:1 suggests that Sarah died immediately following the test of Abraham. Some suggest that this was Jesus' age at His crucifixion.

² *Men Who Met God.* 19-20.

³ *Ibid.* 28-33.

⁴ *Everything Belongs: the Gift of Contemplative Prayer.* 20.

(2) So, “these things” refers to all that happened to Abraham during the 62 years between the first Covenant promise and God’s testing of Abraham.

4) Abraham’s Jesus Way

Abraham was not a half-hearted believer...Abraham heard from God. Abraham met with God. Abraham listened to God. Abraham responded to God. He knew the meaning of an altar of worship and praise. Our altar of devotion and worship within our hearts should be as real.

It does not take great wisdom to perceive that we live in a generation of completely self-confident men and women. We are doing so well and flourishing in so many ways that we feel little need for God.

A great number of believers have set a limitation on what they are willing to do for the Lord, for His Church and His people. Such an unwillingness only underscores the contemporary unwillingness of professing Christians to take the Word of God seriously. Their difficulty is not in understanding the Bible but in persuading their untamed hearts to accept its plain instructions.³

a) From the time of God’s calling to Him (Genesis 12:1) Abraham lived life as a stranger in a foreign land.

i) First use of “Hebrew” is in Genesis 14:13—Abram the Hebrew

ii) Hebrew => “One from beyond”—a stranger or alien

b) Abraham following the Jesus way:

i) Living as an alien in a foreign land (John 17:14)

It seems that we Christians have been worshipping Jesus’ journey instead of doing his journey. The first feels very religious; the second feels very human, and not glorious at all.⁴

Abraham was far from perfect in his behavior...next week we will look at the messy life of this great man of faith.

Closing Prayer

7:00 –
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If you would like prayer, please come up front and one or more of us will remain to pray with you.

Further reading:

- *The Bible*
- Au, Walkie and Noreen Cannon Au. (2006). *The Discerning Heart: Exploring the Christian Path*. Paulist Press.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. (1995). *The Cost of Discipleship*. Simon & Schuster.
- Ciardi, John & Williams, Miller. (1975). *How Does a Poem Mean?* Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Haase, Albert. *Coming Home to Your True Self: Leaving the Emptiness of False Attractions*. (2008). IVP Books.
- Martin, James. (2005). *Become Who You Are*. Hidden Spring.
- Nouwen, Henri. (1981). *The Way of the Heart: Connecting with God Through Prayer, Wisdom, and Silence*. Ballantine Books.
- Ortberg, John. (2010). *The Me I Want To Be*. Zondervan.
- Peterson, Eugene H. (2007). *The Jesus Way: A Conversation on the Ways that Jesus is the Way*. Eerdmans Publishing Company.
- Rohr, Richard. (2002). *Everything Belongs: the Gift of Contemplative Prayer*. Crossroad Publishing Company.
- Shelley, Bruce L. (1995). *Church History in Plain Language*. Thomas Nelson Publishers.
- Tozer, A.W. *Men Who Met God*. (1986). Christian Publications.
- Yancey, Phillip. (2002). *Reaching for the Invisible God*. Zondervan.