

# No matter what you see

ODCC – XX (.doc)

**Text:** Genesis 12:1-6 & 13:14-18

## Introduction

1. This is an incredible story. Abraham is identified as the Father of Faith. As you consider the life of Abraham it should become clear that he was a giant among spiritual men.
  - a. “The just,” we are told, “should walk (or live) by faith.” It is easier said than done BUT...
  - b. God requires it and so it is something we ought to learn to do. AND...
  - c. Abraham as the father of faith is the example for us **as are** so many others who copied his faith and trusted absolutely in God
  - d. Where one man has gone another can go and **in any case** Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith (Heb 12:2).

## The story

1. Think about God’s call to Abraham. He is living quite comfortably in his own country and seemingly doing very well for himself. He is in his comfort zone! He is surrounded by his family. He is culturally at home. He has a future. He is happy where he is doing what he’s doing.
  - a. He obviously has a heart for God and God sees it. The Bible shows us as I mentioned a few weeks ago, that God searches for people whose hearts are longing for God.
  - b. And God calls Abraham to LEAVE his comfort zone, to leave his family, his country and move to a far-away place.
  - c. And he is to move into a country that is not his own, he is to live among a people with a different language and culture. He is to live, in other words, as a stranger in a foreign place.
2. On top of that, God tells Abraham, “This country that you’re in, it’s yours, I’m giving it to you and your descendants.”
  - a. I doubt that Abraham shared that with too many people. He was living in a country that was well-populated, that had fortified cities, that had kings and armies.
  - b. He owned nothing in that land and would undoubtedly have had to pay for the privilege of grazing his herds on land that belonged to others.
  - c. Can you imagine if he began to tell everyone that it was only a matter of time and then their cities would belong to him, their farms would be his.
3. But in His time (and not a short time), God accomplishes all the things that He promised Abraham.
  - a. And the amazing thing is that Abraham died without seeing a single change in his status. He died in Canaan, was buried in Canaan and all he owned was a small plot of land which he had purchased to bury Sarah, his first wife.
  - b. Ultimately, why is it that God did what He did? He did it because a man believed and was willing to give up everything to get what God had promised (Psm 105:42).
  - c. If Abraham had balked at the offer of God, God would have chosen someone else, it’s true. But Abraham was determined to receive a promise that was eternal.

## You and me

1. I often get excited by my calling. And of late I have become even more thrilled by it.
  - a. The only way to describe it is that we sit with all men around us and we are all like seeds. And the water of the gospel is poured out on us – all are soaked by it but not all receive life by it and one here and one there does and they grow.
  - b. Or all are blind – in pitch blackness and the light of God shines at various times on everyone but not everyone’s eyes are opened – some see but most remain blind.
  - c. Everyone is dead in their sins and the voice of Jesus goes throughout the earth and as He shouted to Lazarus, He shouts, “**Come forth!**” But not everyone hears Jesus’ voice and some come out alive but many others remain dead and wrapped in burial cloth.
2. I have been called and you, if you believe in Jesus, have been called.
  - a. And like Abraham, we are living in a country that is not our own and among a people whose customs and language are not our own.
  - b. And like Abraham, we may feel as if perhaps the promises that God has made to us are “pie in the sky”
  - c. Even though Abraham is the father of faith, he went through times of doubting and even “did his own thing” instead of looking to God for leading.

3. But like Abraham, we have to keep reminding ourselves that God's promises are more certain than the fact that the sun will rise tomorrow.
  - a. God has shown through all generations that His promises are trustworthy and it does not matter how unlikely or impossible things seem, God is faithful!
  - b. Some months ago I was feeling very discouraged about something and God spoke so clearly to me and said, "***Why do you allow your emotions to be affected by what you see? Concentrate on the promise, concentrate on me***"
  - c. I was reminded of Abraham living in a country that God had given him but it was filled with people who believed that they owned it.
  - d. I was reminded of Peter who saw Jesus and with his eyes fixed on Jesus he got out of the boat and walked on water UNTIL he saw the wind and the waves and fear gripped him and he sank.

### **In conclusion**

1. There's two things I want to leave with you today. *Firstly*, you and I as believers are called to be men and women of faith.
  - a. God wants you to have faith. God wants you to believe in Him. God wants you to believe even when everything's tells you it's ridiculous to believe.
  - b. Your faith will be tested. Doctors are thoroughly tested before they're allowed to prescribe drugs or operate on someone.
  - c. Engineers are thoroughly tested before they're allowed to build bridges and skyscrapers. And God will test your faith before He can fully entrust His plans and purposes for your life.
2. *Secondly*, do not allow what you see with the natural eye or think with the natural man to affect your emotion and your faith.
  - a. Get to know the promises of God and trust God with all your heart. Wake up every day and say with all your being, "God, today I put my trust in you. I WILL trust you."