

Blessed to Be a Blessing

Genesis 12: The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. 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. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

This has long been a favorite set of verses for me. God pulls back the curtain on his plan to redeem man and restore the relationship between Creator and created. And we see within them elements that impact Christ followers today. Let's look at some of them.

GO

I memorized this passage. I've been part of numerous studies and conversations about it. But for a long time I skipped right past the first one: Go! Abram was commanded to leave his homeland and family. We may not be called to that, but we are commanded to go: across the street, into community, into the impoverished centers, into hospitals and jails. We are expected to go places we don't necessarily like, places outside our comfort zone.

- Where has God sent you that you did not expect?
- What was the result?

I WILL SHOW YOU

Another little part I glossed over for a long time. Our zeal at times carries us into adventures of our own making, not God's. We want to cry out; "Hey God, look at all the good I am doing in your name." I think His response insists He orchestrate the going, do with Him, not for him.

- Have you ever embarked on a God trip and later realized He's not the conductor?
- How do you determine if He is directing or not?

I WILL MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT

Uh oh. That sounds out of bounds. May I respectfully disagree? In my life, I have been fortunate to meet and know people of great reputation who are madly in love with Jesus and retain a humbleness of person despite the praise of the crowd.

- Who have you known of great reputation and humble stature?

I WILL BLESS YOU

Sometimes I can be arrogant in my expectation of blessing, but there are times I am confident that I do not trust God in the promise. So I play in the mud puddles instead of swimming in the ocean.

- What does God's blessing look like in your life?

YOU WILL BE A BLESSING

I would love to share Sam Barrington's recent post about fat, lazy Christians reclining in their pews demanding the pastor spoon feed them, but you get the point. We are blessed that we might be a blessing. It's that simple.

- Are you a blessing?