

VBS 2016 L1
Abram Follow God
Gen 12:1-3
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from Abram's example of following God.

- Intro:
1. What do you think of when you hear the phrase "follower of God".
 2. A person could have many ideas of what they think it means.
 3. However the Bible clearly shows time and time again that a person who is a "follower of God", is a person who OBEYS God (**Heb 5:9**).

I. Abram's calling & his possible reactions.

- A. He could of flatly refused to follow God.
 1. Though it didn't work out so well for Jonah (**Jonah 1:12**).
 2. It didn't work out well for Ananis & Saphariah either (**Acts 5:9**).
- B. He, like so many, could of found any number of excuses.
 1. Moses, at one time made excuses also (**Exodus 4:12-13**).
 2. We today do not have time to make excuses. Remember Felix never found a "convient" time, did he (**Acts 24:25-27**)?

II. What did God promise Abram?

- A. Promises from God
 1. The "callings" of Abram record God's plans for Abram & his blessings.
 2. He will bless him & makes his name great. God would bless those who blessed Abram & curse those who cursed Abram (**Gen 12:2-3**).
 - a. There are certain "perks" of being a friend to God & friend to His followers.
 - b. His descendants would be like the stars of the sky, unnumerable (**Gen 15:5-6**).
- B. General promises of God for those who follow Him.
 1. Followers of God, no matter the time period are promised eternal life (**Ps 73:24**).
 2. The same would be given to Abram for his faithfulness.

III. Lessons for us today.

- A. What happens when you follow God?
 1. Today, when you follow God like Abram you will have eternal life with God, like Abram.
 2. What it really comes down to is if heaven is enough for you to follow God?
 - a. Consider the song "**Heaven Holds All To Me**" (Song #)
- B. Why would someone not follow God?
 1. The reasons a person can give for not following God are endless.
 - a. However most of them are selfish reasons. We want to live our life as we choose, to do things our own way.
 2. We can still learn a lot from "the preacher" of Ecclesiastes. He did as he pleased and yet the result is what we still find today "*all is vanity and grasping for the wind*".

Application & Conclusion:

1. Abram obeyed God, thus He followed God's commands.
2. You can only be a follower of God if you are obeying God.
 - a. Is it time to stop making excuses.
 - b. Is it time to stop doing things "your way"?
 - c. Is it time to get serious about following God?
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Luke 13:3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – Rev 2:10,

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9