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## **MESSAGE NOTES - MAY 31st, 2026**

### **(FATHER ABRAHAM pt. 2)**

**Man of Faith** – Faith isn't a straight line of perfect performance; it's a messy journey of relying entirely on God's grace.

**Last week:** 75 yr old Abram called from his country, family and father's house to a place the Lord would show him... aka the promised land. Abram responds admirably and with great faith as a response to God's grace. Grace gives us the security to step into the unknown before we have all the answers. But then something happens; a challenge in Abram's superhuman faith and we will learn that: God's grace proves to be much bigger than our biggest mistakes.

#### **Genesis 12:10**

Fear can drive us to manipulate the situation when we should trust God.

Abram makes this trek to the land the Lord showed him. Built altars signifying the Lord is with him. and what happens? A famine strikes.

What does Abram do? He leaves. From where? The place the Lord sent him to go & be.

Think about that for a moment. He decided & prepared himself to leave the promised land. Abram followed what the Lord had told him but at this moment, he made up his own mind to leave it. Abram went. Why? Fear.

His focus shifts from God and his promises to what he perceives a threat to everything. Abram is faced with an everyday temptation: his human resourcefulness over a divine reliance on God.

Have you ever walked through adversity and instead of asking God to walk with, you made your own path? Fear can drive us to manipulate the situation when we should trust God.

We are given a complete, transparent account of our own faith by how we respond in situations. There is a danger of taking control because of fear/unknown/uncomfortable: Our self-made rescue plans can create deeper complications.

#### **Genesis 12:11-16**

Our self-made rescue plans create deeper complications.

Ever remember something that you needed after you were already gone? Like a really important item? Abram's faith in the Lord's promise just changed to faith in his own self-made

rescue plan (from famine and now from Egyptians). Why? Maybe God's distant promises didn't see so near or attainable on their own. The irony is so thick here: his plan of self-preservation worked but at a price. By saving his own life he gained more wealth but he sacrificed his wife and compromised the covenant of the Lord.

A dangerous question we might ask to justify our actions: "What choice did I have?" I have heard that with struggling families. Even myself a few times in the past. Actions Honoring/dishonoring God? Denounce/Profess faith? When we find ourselves utterly trapped by our own compromises, it is important we confess in order to discover the truth of grace: Our performance isn't the anchor of our security or salvation, God's grace is. Faith isn't a straight line of perfect performance; it's a messy journey of relying entirely on God's grace. But grace doesn't prevent consequences

### **Genesis 12:17-20**

Abram is doing absolutely nothing to clean up his mess. He rescued himself but is not trying to rescue his wife; he isn't confessing; has money and safety. God steps in on Abram's selfishness and stirs up a plague and through that plague it is revealed to the Pharaoh what Abram has done. And a pagan king rebukes Abram and then kicks him out of Egypt where Abram planned to be safe.

God showed his grace by rescuing Abram and proved His faithfulness to the covenant Abram broke. God's sovereign grace rescues us from our own plans. (Ourselves!) This brings us face-to-face with the reality of what it means to be a believer and follower of Jesus Christ.

**Deitrich Bonhoeffer** "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."

The hard part wasn't leaving his family, it was when life became hard. And this assessment could be true for many of us at any time in our life.

**Luke 9:23** "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me."

Despite abandoning the promised land and selling out his wife, God did not abandon Abram. Despite us abandoning Jesus's grace and his relationship when we sin, he doesn't ever leave us. His grace is always at the ready, calling out to us, justifying us (declare you not guilty) and making us holy.

What is one circumstance in your life that is making you nervous or afraid and tempting you to manipulate it? What must you die to in order to truly be free?

We all have had seasons in Egypt running from something. Come home. Begin again. Receive His grace is greater than anything. Than everything.

God's grace proves to be much bigger than our biggest mistakes.