



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: How We Got Here: A New Story

Speaker: Rich Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Genesis 12: 1-4

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.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

Genesis 12: 1-4 (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

- The story of Abram is a story about God calling Abram out of a life of barrenness into a new life of restoration. At the end of Chapter 11, the world is marked by hopelessness, by barrenness. God calls Abram and Sara because they are going to be a gift to the world, and God begins with them because they are in place of barrenness. God chose them because of their barrenness, where their situation seemed hopeless. Abram didn't know where God was sending him, but he had trust. God is attracted to people who know they cannot do anything in their own strength.
- When the Lord says something, life can emerge. His words can speak to, and against, all the other things that people have said to us, about us and over us.
- The three words in Genesis 12 we want to emphasize are: leave, receive, believe.
 - Leave. The first thing that God says to Abraham is to go on a pilgrimage. To leave means that we are asked to let go of what is familiar and comfortable, because it stands in the way of where God wants to take us. We are called to leave value systems and country, that are opposed to the Kingdom of God.
 - Receive. We must leave first in order to receive – must follow God first in order to receive a blessing. We often want to receive the blessing without leaving what God wants us to. To receive we must also be in the practice of prayer.
 - Believe. Leaving and receiving are contingent on us believing. God’s ways and thoughts are higher than our ways and thoughts. God is holding us when we believe and trust in His ways.

- Every single morning God is willing to start with you again. In a world that will cancel you out in a second, God begins with us every morning.
- Story of the blind man that Jesus takes by the hand and walks with him out of the village. Jesus takes him to a point outside of the village and restores his sight. Living a life of faith and trust means we don't always know, or see, where we are going but know that God is with us.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday Pastor Rich continues our current sermon series How We Got Here by discussing the story of the Abraham, and the way God would use him to see the world restored.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, who were you able to trust? What parameters were you taught on how to trust/not trust others? How do those life practices make it easy or hard to trust God?
3. What in your life is God calling you to leave?
4. Has there been a time where you thought something was right, but it wasn't? A time when you were asking God to bless something that was your way and not His?
5. If you believe God will catch and hold you, think of what is holding you back from leaving behind what He wants you to. Spend time in prayer throughout this week, for strength, wisdom and discernment to leave even if you are not sure where God will take you.