

February 16th

GOD CALLS PAGANS

“Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” **GENESIS 12:1-3**

Ever thought that someone was beyond hope? Maybe you haven’t lost hope for them, but you may begin to doubt God’s plan for them. You may begin to hesitate to share with them God’s truth again. Maybe they have listened to you but walked in the opposite direction of your counsel. How can you hold onto hope, men? What does God have to say to you through His Word?

Enter the story of a pagan once named Abram. At least that was his name. God changed his name to Abraham twenty plus years later. But he began as an insignificant man that was traveling with his extended family. As you read Genesis 12, you see the simple faith and trust of Abram. But this obedient trust comes from a place of being lost. Read Genesis 11:31-32 to see how Abram was lost. He had no child from his wife. He meant to go to Canaan but stopped short and lived in Haran. His father died. The ultimate picture of lostness comes from another place, Joshua 24:2: “And Joshua said to all the people, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods.’” The legend Abram began as...a pagan.

What does this mean for you, men? Abram who later became Abraham is one hero in a long line of godly men that followed our King. But it’s not about Abraham, or Moses, or David, or Elijah. These men came along because God called them. You aren’t so different from these so-called giants of the faith. Instead, what made them great was their great God who called them. Just look at Abraham’s big lies about his wife. Look at Moses murdering an Egyptian. Look at David’s adultery and murder. Look at Elijah’s depression and suicidal thoughts. These men were sinners...sinners like you and me. But God. God doesn’t leave them or us in a place of shame. Instead, He rescues us and calls us saints. Not because we are sinless, but because we are called by our God! This gives you hope friend. You are never outside of God’s reach. This is about His power and His Name, not your power and your name. How will you remember God’s great call on your life...calling you from your sin and giving you eternal life?

Take time to reflect on God’s calling you to be saved. Thank Him for saving you from your sin. Ask Him to help you find hope in your calling today.

For Further Reading: Ephesians 1:3-23