

February 17th

OBEDIENCE BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP

“So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.” GENESIS 12:4

July 4th, 1776. December 7, 1941. June 6th, 1944. September 11, 2001. These moments live in our history as dates of triumph and dates of sorrow. History calls us to remember these moments as pivotal events that changed the course of history. How does the Bible see its own events? What pivotal moments impact God’s world? One moment is God’s call of Abram. Take a closer look to see one of the biggest understatements you’ll ever see...So Abram went, as the Lord had told him. What an amazing step of faith! Hebrews 11:8 gives greater perspective on how much faith this step of obedience was: “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.” Not knowing where he was going? And he still went as the Lord had told him. Abram simply took steps toward the land that God had promised him.

Men, what does God have to teach us through this step of obedience. First of all, we can plainly see that the steps that Abram took were not simple. They were just obedient. Abram’s age tells a story here. He’s not a young man. He lived to be 175, but God calls him at 75. It would be like God calling you to pick up from Snyder or Union County and go to California. Except, you must leave your family behind (except Lot—we’ll find out about him in another devotional). Can you put yourself in the place of Abram here? This clears away the fog that we might be tempted to believe about Abram. It wasn’t easy. But God. God called him. And Abram went. His journey for the next 100 years began with a single step.

Men, the same God of Abram is also your God. There’s no doubt, Abram is a hero in the Bible...A hero that succeeds and fails. This is more about Abram’s God than Abram’s obedience. And it’s the same for you men. This is about God’s call on you. God’s leading you to follow Him. Your only response is to take a step toward Him. To follow Him. He gives you the strength to follow His lead. You’re not alone in walking in obedience. God’s promise to you is clear from Ephesians 3:20: “Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us...” God’s power in you...does far more than anything you could possibly ask for or even think about! Will you trust Him today in stepping to obey Him?

Take time to ask God what obedience to Him looks like today. Ask Him for courage and strength to follow Him with an undivided heart.

For Further Reading: Hebrews 11:8-19