

Part 8 – Jesus Changes Everything

Life of Abraham Series

Genesis 17:1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* **the Almighty God**; walk before me and be thou perfect.

2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee and will multiply thee exceedingly.

3 And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,

4 As for me, behold, my covenant *is* with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.

5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations **have I made thee**.

6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

7 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, **all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession**; and **I will be** their God.

9 And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

10 This *is* my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

- The last thing we see Abram doing is having a child with a woman that is not Sarai.
 - Abram, whose faith moved him to follow a Word from God
 - had gotten impatient in waiting on God to fulfill His promises in giving him an heir.
 - So, **naturally**, God comes to Abram in the flesh and speaks face to face with him...
 - This is sarcasm...but God is not natural...He is supernatural!!!
- What a thought!

- My lack of faith only makes God want to reassure my faith...Look!
- God, in flesh form, or Jesus came to speak with Abram.
- He makes sure Abram knows His Name...**I AM THE Almighty God**
 - Then He gives Abram a reminder of his responsibility, **walk with me and be made whole.**
 - Then He reminds of His Promises!
- I swear to multiply you...**exceedingly**
 - I **have given** you the Land we spoke of before
 - Then He changes Abram's name...**Abraham**
- God's changing of the name signifies a different identification
 - No longer is this Chaldean known as a Chaldean high father
 - No longer is his Chaldean name, Abram going to be used
 - His identity is no longer is found in his history or in his legacy
 - His identity is now defined and named by his object of faith

- The Almighty God of all creation names his Abraham because Only The Almighty God can make an old man, and an old woman have a child when nature declares something else and make him the High Father of Multitudes
- **Here's a thought**...what if Abram had let his sin of faithlessness and infidelity keep him from meeting with the LORD?
- We get so bogged down in our sin that it keeps us from pursuing Christ as we should...
 - Abram **didn't go to God**...God came to him.
 - Let that grip you for a moment!
 - It is natural for us, in our sin to stay away from our Holy Savior
 - It is not natural for Him, who despises sin, to come to a sinner and remind us of just Who He is...
 - It is SUPERNATURAL...It is Grace!
 - It is Mercy
 - It is LOVE!!!
 - When I am wayward in **my way, The Way** comes to remind of who He is...
 - Reminds of what I am supposed to be doing...

- Reminds me of what He has promised for obedience...
- And reminds me of who I am supposed to identify as!!!
- Grace on Grace Man!!!
- The last thing Jesus wants is for who I am to keep me from the I AM.
 - My sin only separates me if I stay there.
 - My sin only separates me if I let it.
 - So Jesus reminds us that He became my sin so that I could become more like Him!
- There is however a cost

Genesis 17:9 And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

10 This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

12 And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed.

13 He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

14 And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.

- What may seem an odd request by the thrice Holy God of Creation is quite simple.
 - There is not much more a powerful drive in a man than a man's appetite for sexual gratification.
 - It has been laughed about for generations that a man has two brains and when the lower one takes over the main brain becomes a slave.
 - So, our Creator, who gave us that sex drive so that mankind could go on, says...
 - cut off part of what drives us.
 - This is a symbol or picture of what I am supposed to do as a New Testament or New Covenant Christian.
 - I am to cut off/deny my flesh...
 - who I am...
 - what drives me...

- And allow the Holy Spirit to lead me.
- **Romans 6:6** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.
7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.
8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:
9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.
10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.
11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.
12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.
13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.
14 For **sin shall not have dominion** over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.
- **Romans 13:12** The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light.

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

- **Galatians 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

- **Galatians 6:12** As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

13 For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.

14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a **new creature**.

- **2Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
- **Colossians 2:10** And ye are **complete in Him**, which is the head of all principality and power:

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, **in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:**

12 Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *Him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead.

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross;

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

- **So, a Few Quick Questions for you...**
 - **Have you met Jesus?**
 - **Do you Still live in your flesh?**
 - **So, He hasn't changed Everything?**
 - **Has He changed anything?**
 - **Have you really met Jesus?**