

Good morning Arising Church!

Every once in a while throughout the course of our lives, our family gets the opportunity to live out monumental moments right in front of you and with you.

Our church is standing on the edge once more, ready to sacrifice, ready to invest, ready to jump to show faith, to leap out of the boat and trust that he will make us walk on water.

Today is Lily Belle Slaughter's last Sunday with us as a single woman!

She will be getting married to Ezekiel Christian Lam and moving to Gainesville, Virginia to join their thriving church and build a new life together with that incredible family.



At the same time as this the Lord has also been speaking very powerfully about sending out workers to the global mission field both locally and internationally. We want to play you the prophetic word that was spoken 2 weeks ago through Pastor Peter. Keep in mind as you are listening to this that as soon as Pastor began to speak, all of the power went out in here and then as soon as this word was done, all the power came right back on.

<<Peter's word trimmed.m4a>>

In accordance with the powerful word from God that was spoken by Pastor Peter 2 Sundays ago, The Arising Church is determined to follow through on the directives we are receiving from the Lord.

- **Psalm 116 12–14 NIV 1984**

“How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.
I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.”

The righteous response to the Lord's goodness to us is not just to be happy that He was good to us, it is to do what we told Him we would do and for everyone to see us do it.

Well today we want to highlight something, let's reread our passage from The One Association Conference 3.5 years ago concerning the times of Ibzan when Luke and Abbe got married.

- **Judges 12:8–10 NIV 1984**

“After him, Ibzan of Bethlehem led Israel.
He had thirty sons and thirty daughters.
He gave his daughters away in marriage to those outside his clan, and for his sons he brought in thirty young women as wives from outside his clan.
Ibzan led Israel seven years.
Then Ibzan died and was buried in Bethlehem.”

This man Ibzan led Israel for 7 years.

To have had 30 sons and 30 daughters shows his abundance and his strength. And what did he do with it? He gave his daughters away to those outside his clan and brought in sons

Julia united the Brasseaux's with the people of Peru/Venezuela
Abbe united LCM with The Arising
Chloe united LCM with The Arising
Hannah united King's Harvest with Submission
Zoe united the Vincent's with the people of Indonesia
Sydney united LCM with The Arising
And now Lily will unite The Arising with Submission

These are just pastors' daughters alone, not to mention the individuals and families that have been sown by the churches into each church which have only served to strengthen our bonds together. When we look at it this way, we recognize that over time each investment made that binds us to people in a foreign land, or that binds us to our brother churches is only serving to deepen our relationships and strengthen our association.

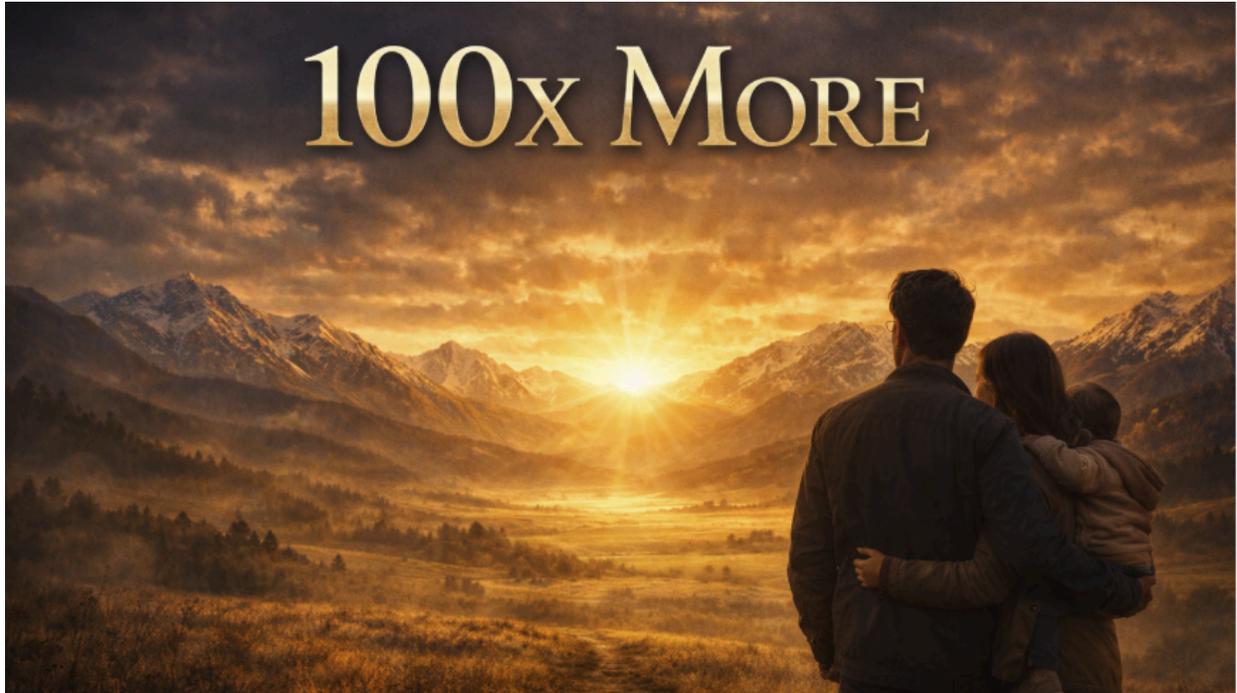
In honor of this, let's read a passage from Mark that will give us our title for today.

Mark 10:29-30 NIV

29 "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH," JESUS REPLIED, "NO ONE WHO HAS LEFT HOME OR BROTHERS OR SISTERS OR MOTHER OR FATHER OR CHILDREN OR FIELDS FOR ME AND THE GOSPEL
30 WILL FAIL TO RECEIVE A HUNDRED TIMES AS MUCH IN THIS PRESENT AGE (HOMES, BROTHERS, SISTERS, MOTHERS, CHILDREN AND FIELDS—AND WITH THEM, PERSECUTIONS) AND IN THE AGE TO COME, ETERNAL LIFE."

These words from Jesus are repeated in Matthew 19 and Luke 18.

We named this message today:



When you look at this little family in this picture, imagine that they are setting out to follow what the Lord is calling them to do... what are they leaving behind? Where are they heading? What will they find?

Most of the time, we don't fully understand what we are leaving behind because we don't yet appreciate it as much as we will.

We also don't fully understand where we're going...we only have the reassurance from God that over time we will view it as 100x more than what we left behind and here is the caveat...what we left behind for HIS SAKE and for the SAKE OF THE GOSPEL.

But Lily, and any of you who might be feeling a little trepidatious now that the idea of going may become a reality...you might be wondering could it really be 100x more than right now?

I like right now

I know right now

I believe it will be good, but...100 fold? 100x more?

I want to highlight a few well known characters to call to mind their situations so we can see how it was better.

Let's start with Abram.

- **Genesis 11:31-32 NIV 84**

31 Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there.

32 The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.

Did you ever consider how difficult it would have been for Abram to leave his father's household? He had already trusted Terah enough to follow him nearly 1,000 miles from Ur to Haran. Terah must have been a man Abram respected—strong enough in character to raise a son like him.

What about David?

- **1 Samuel 22:3–4 NIV 1984**

From there David went to Mizpah in Moab and said to the king of Moab, "Would you let my father and mother come and stay with you until I learn what God will do for me?" So he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him as long as David was in the stronghold.

Have you ever considered that David may have actually cherished his parents—his home? We often picture him as overlooked and underappreciated. But he sacrificed for his family, obeyed his father, and cared for his brothers. What if,

when he was anointed by Samuel and later called into Saul's service, David wrestled with whether following God's call would truly be better than the life he already knew at home?

What about Ruth, Esther, Ezra?

All of these people recognized the times they were living in and understood I have to let go of what I know and have grown accustomed to take a leap by faith
Ruth left the home she knew in Moab to attach to Naomi and ultimately Boaz. Did she not receive 100x more?

Esther let go of the safety she had grown accustomed to in hopes of saving the lives of her fellow Jews, did she not gain 100x more

Nehemiah left his job to build up Jerusalem and he ultimately returned to the king but Ezra left the life he had become accustomed to and there is no record of him returning

- Ezra 7:11–26 records a decree from the king giving Ezra:
 - authority
 - resources
 - judicial power
- Ezra 7:28 (NIV 1984)
“Because the hand of the LORD my God was on me, **I took courage and gathered leading men from Israel to go up with me.**”

But Ezra restored the Word among the people of God

100x more

Think about this phrase

NIV 1984

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”

Wouldn't you think it would say for this reason the woman?

The son is going to magnify 100x more what he has been given

It appears again in 3 other places

- Genesis 2:24 → creation design
- Matthew 19:5 / Mark 10:7 → affirmed by Jesus
- Ephesians 5:31 → fulfilled in Christ

The man is stepping out of what he has known to pursue the call of building a family

He will receive 100x more

John 12:24-25 turn and read

NIV 1984

“I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”

ESV

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

Whoever loves his life but hates (loves less so as to let it go will produce much fruit)

Invite others up to share

At the end talk about the blessing

Luke 24:50–51 NIV 1984

“When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.”

Turn to Genesis 1:28

God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it...'"

The blessing can seem like a throwaway nicety but it was always about more than that

Turn to Genesis 28:3-4

NIV 1984

"May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples. May he give you and your descendants the blessing given to Abraham, so that you may take possession of the land where you now live as an alien, the land God gave to Abraham.

The blessing of a father for a son to marry his daughter is a divine empowerment to finish the work

The blessing of Man by God in the beginning was to empower man for the work he was being assigned

The blessing from Jesus was to empower them for the work that was his that he was entrusting to them

To produce even greater 30 60 100 times more

We want to sing and pronounce a blessing over Lily and over those of you in here who are letting go of what you know and have become familiar with to pursue what the Lord has called you to

The blessing

Let's go to Hebrews 11:8-19 NIV 84

8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Do you ever think that leaving his father's house was difficult? We have told this story so many times we forget that to him, life turning out way better than it was in his father's house was a huge leap of faith. We know how everything turned out for him, but he didn't know.

9 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 By faith Abraham, even though he was past age--and Sarah herself was barren--was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. 12 And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

But that was after he died right?

So to recall Jesus' words, this was the fulfillment of the reward after death? That's when most people think that the reward comes...after death only...let's look at them again...

Mark 10:29-30 NIV

29 "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH," JESUS REPLIED, "NO ONE WHO HAS LEFT HOME OR BROTHERS OR SISTERS OR MOTHER OR FATHER OR CHILDREN OR FIELDS FOR ME AND THE GOSPEL
30 WILL FAIL TO RECEIVE A HUNDRED TIMES AS MUCH IN THIS PRESENT AGE (HOMES, BROTHERS, SISTERS, MOTHERS, CHILDREN AND FIELDS—AND WITH THEM, PERSECUTIONS) AND IN THE AGE TO COME, ETERNAL LIFE."

13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. **They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.** And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. 14 People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. 15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 **Instead, they were longing for a better country--a heavenly one.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. 17 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, 18 even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." 19 Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.

39 These were all commended for their faith, yet **none of them received what had been promised.** 40 God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

This last phrase shows that it wasn't about them not having received 100x more in this life, but that God wasn't done in this life alone