

differently, not seeking comfort but being faithful. And Abram enjoyed going with the LORD seeing the good land his children would inherit and enjoy living with the LORD.

I think Jesus wants us to go with him enjoying exploring the extent of his kingdom as we live in his love together. Going to other people that they too might come to know God's love for them in Jesus, sharing life together in the Spirit. I think Jesus wants us to join him as he wanders around from person to person, not staying put, but

discovering how he can change people so that they become his disciples, so that they live by faith, by faith in him and the future he is bringing.

Who is Jesus calling you to disciple? Go, even if you don't have all the answers. Go, even if it feels foreign, and you're the one who has to give up feeling comfortable and secure. Go, knowing the Spirit goes with you, and be discovering the promised land of God's love. You're bringing Jesus' kingdom so that people might have a real hope for the future, for life now.

Jesus has called us to go and make disciples? Let's go.

Let us pray.  
Jesus we know your call to make disciples. We have heard it, help us to go as you lead. Help us not to be shaped by our fear, doubts, uncertainties but by trust in your call. Jesus fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we can go following your lead this week, being open to the people you will bring across our paths, and be willing to risk doing things differently that they might come to know you. Amen.

8 August 2010

## THE CALL OF ABRAM

Genesis 12:1-9



The call of Abram lead me to ask myself; 'What would have the power to make me change?' Abram was seventy-five, living comfortably in Harran and then he makes a huge change. He packs up everything, heads out into an unknown area, living in tents as a foreigner. What huge changes. What would get me to sell up everything and hit the road, going where I had never been, doing things totally differently? What would have the power to motivate me to change?

For Abram it was simply the LORD's call. The LORD said; "Abram, Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you." (Genesis 12:1)

I don't know about you but that would leave me with some questions. Like, why? Why isn't Harran any good? Why can't you do your plan here LORD? Or why not go back to Er, Abram's home town? Why this obscure little place? What's so special about it? Abram takes the LORD at his word and goes.

What's the first word in Jesus' call to his followers at the end of the Gospel recorded by Matthew? 'Go'. Have you noticed you can't go by sitting still? The word 'Go' is a call to action. If I said let's go to Woolworths, right now and invite the people we meet there to share with us in a coffee and cake at Michelle's and tell them about Jesus, what would we have to do?

I reckon if I was in the congregation and the pastor said that, and then walked out to go to Woolworths, I'd probably stay put. I'd feel uncomfortable about walking out half-way through a service. I'd be nervous about talking to a stranger, who would probably label me strange. And it would cost me money. Plus we've never done that before, it's just not the right thing to do. In other words I'd start to justify my not going. Barriers would spring up stopping me from going.

Abram packed up his home, took his nephew Lot with him and got going. He trusted the LORD, taking him at his word. That's why Abram is the father of faith, because he let the LORD direct his

---

### Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

actions. The LORD said 'GO' so Abram went.

is saying to us through the Spirit, and not go of and do our own thing.

At the present time many people are putting in their tax return. Should I put in my tax return? What does Jesus say, or do I just do it so I won't get a fine, or because I'm expecting to get some money back. What does Jesus say about this? Romans 13 "Be a good

citizen. All governments are under God. Insofar as there is peace and order, it's God's order. So live responsibly as

**The LORD said; 'GO' so Abram went.**

simply because that's what everyone else is doing in our society, not because I've taken time to listen and be lead by Jesus. I must admit at times I simply use my logic and reason to determine my action, not because I feel lead to do it by Jesus.

So I find Abram refreshing, and inspiring to seek to live the same way. To hear from the LORD and then to go, doing what Jesus says.

What would have happened if Abram had stayed? I often wonder if the LORD had at first called his father Terah. He was the one who moved from Er to Haran and then stopped. Or was the LORD preparing Abram by first getting him to experience a little move, before the big move. Is Jesus preparing you?

Abram did move at the LORD'S call. His life was shaped by the LORD'S word. This is how Jesus wants us to live, to live by faith. That means letting Jesus' word shape our lives. If Jesus says it we'll do it, for no other reason than Jesus said it. If Jesus says no then we don't go. If Jesus says jump we say; 'how high'. And if we don't hear his lead, we'll take time to listen and be attentive to what Jesus

a citizen... Don't run up debts, except for the huge debt of love you owe each other." (Romans 13:1,8 Message) I believe Jesus is convicting me to pay my tax. Not paying would be unloving, how else are our schools, hospitals, and police funded. To short change them would be unloving and not the act of a responsible loving citizen.

The same is true for our upcoming election. Jesus is calling me to an act of faith, an act that is shaped by his call on my life, that is shaped by his love, his grace, his mercy. So after a time of prayer, reflecting on God's word, I then need to vote as I feel the Spirit leading me. If all I did was look at what

each party offered and then cast my vote for the one I thought was going to be best for me, that wouldn't be an act of faith. What is Jesus' will and how do the various parties compare to Jesus' will. You might be convicted that none of them compare well, so maybe the act of faith the Spirit is leading you to is to correspond with your member of parliament and share the concerns you have. Maybe the response of faith is to pray for those in government. Maybe the response of faith is to ask the Spirit to give

you clarity on some areas and wait for his leading. Then act.

I find Abram an inspiring example of faith, he took the LORD at his word and risked everything going as he had been called. And the LORD was faithful.

**Jesus calls us to 'GO'**

When Jesus calls you to take a step of faith where you have to risk your life, going as he has called you, remember Jesus is always faithful.

Also remember, the devil will be out to stop you, or your natural desire to be comfortable, to have control over your life will throw up reasons why it's better not to go. I'm sure we'll be tempted to want more detail, it's only

reasonable, but Abram didn't have all the details, he simply responded to the LORD's call and got going.

Where is Jesus calling you? Who is Jesus calling you to? What change is Jesus calling you to make?

Maybe Jesus is calling you to sell everything, jump in your caravan and go making disciple all over Australia.

Maybe Jesus is simply calling you to use your winter month touring the north, making disciples where you go, being open to the people he will bring along your path, planting new churches in the town you go to. And then return next year to see how they're going, while remaining in facebook contact during the year.

Where is God calling you to go? With Abram the LORD'S call had him do things