

To a Land I Will Show You

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Scriptures - [Genesis 12.1](#)

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### **The Passage**

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you”

“To the land I will show you.” This is the call of the gospel. Come out of the land you are living in, leave the family you were born into - which is of the lineage of Adam who passed on to you a nature and a mind that is fallen and does not know God as He is - and go to a new land where I will give you a new family of promise. This is the gospel. Come out so you can enter in. Turn away from all you’ve ever known and surrender to a life that is foreign to you.

This is the gospel. Lay your life down at the cross and let God determine what things are resurrected and given back to you and what things are buried in the ground forever.

This is the gospel. Leave Adam’s house and let Jesus, the last Adam, lead as you go. “But it sure would be nice to have the directions before we pull out of the driveway.” We walk by faith, not by sight ([2 Corinthians 5.7](#)).

Abraham went out, not knowing where he was going. That’s how [Hebrews 11.8](#) tells the story. It was a journey of faith...and THIS is why the journey of Abraham is the journey of anyone who responds to the call of the gospel.

Ours is a gospel that glorifies Jesus “by life or by death.” That’s what Paul tells the church of Philippi,

“Christ will be magnified in my body whether by life or by death”

([Philippians 1.20](#))

That’s the gospel. Come out of your old life and follow Jesus wherever HE wants to go... it will be a journey of both life and death. Life to the dead things around you - like

disease and  
sickness and  
addiction and  
broken marriages and  
prodigal children and  
bankruptcy and  
closed doors and  
shattered hope,  
and death to anything that Jesus says can't come on this journey - like  
pride and  
selfishness and  
greed and  
unforgiveness.

Jesus is magnified when someone hears the call to come out of their life and follow Him by life or by death. And yes, that also might mean literal life and literal death for the glory of the name of Jesus.

You're sitting here today because at some point in your life you were called by God to come out. God called you to come out of the life you were living. That may have happened a long time ago or it may have happened recently. You may still be unsure about what your response to the call is going to be...you may still be trying to figure out how you feel about this kind of life in this kind of kingdom. But the point is, you heard the call.

And that call came to you as a gift of grace. There is nothing you have ever done to deserve that call to come out and enter in. [Ephesians 2.8](#) says,

“...by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.”

But what you do with that gift is entirely up to you.

I remember when Jesus called me out of the life I was living. I was selfish. I was prideful. I was a 29-year old husband and father of a newborn baby girl, determined to build my

own kingdom and make my name great (just like the folks in Babel). But Jesus came to me and asked me a question. He said,

“Do you believe that I am real?”

See, I had grown up in the church...which means I knew enough bible verses to know God was real, but also knew enough to know I wasn't living like it. So I wrestled with that question for 7 days.

“If God is real, then everything is going to have to change...am I willing to come out of this life that means so much to me, and the plans that I have, and the hopes for what I want my life to be...am I willing to lay every bit of that down and follow Jesus on a new path that is completely foreign and completely by faith?”

After 7 days I went back to the little workshop behind our house and I told God that I believed He was real...and I believed I needed Him...and I believed for the first time I really wanted Him. And not only that, but I told Him,

“Wherever You want me and my family to go, whatever You want us to do, whatever You want our life to look like...we are completely Yours.”

It was a moment of absolute surrender. And I believe the Lord was able to redeem the years that I lost while I was living for myself because it was a total surrender to follow Him.

My hope for you today is that you will do the same. If you haven't surrendered your life to Jesus...then hear the call today. Come out of the life you are living and follow Him into a promised land of union with Him.

If you have surrendered to Him, that's wonderful...surrender again. I don't mean for salvation sake, I mean for the sake the journey...for the sake of letting Him take you deeper -

deeper into Himself,  
deeper into His kingdom,  
deeper into your calling,  
deeper into maturity and  
sonship and

family and  
serving and  
this life of the Spirit...don't stop.

There is always more of Him, He is inexhaustible. We never get to the end of who He is, what He wants to show us, who He wants to shape us into. A fresh surrender is in order for some of you.

### **The Sower**

Why is a fresh surrender necessary?

Just as Jesus tells us in the parable of the sower in [Luke 8](#), there is some seeds that fall among the thorns. The seed grows because there is genuine life there, but after time, the thorns and weeds choke out the plant and keep it from producing fruit. Jesus says that those thorns are a metaphor for the:

cares of this world,  
the desire for riches and wealth,  
the pleasures of this life.

Living a life of surrender means you are militant against these things that are violently opposed to you following Jesus where He wants to take you. Fruitfulness is the land that God wants to take us to. That promised land that God had for Abraham was called the land of milk and honey for a reason...it was to be a place full of life and fruit and increase.

### **Ongoing Surrender**

Abraham couldn't just respond to the call once when he left his old life and then expect to arrive in Canaan. There was an intentional act on Abraham's part to keep moving forward into the promise that God had for him.

It's the same for you. Every day you have the ability and the grace and the empowering of the Holy Spirit to keep moving forward. The reality is this, in this life of faith you are either moving forward or b. Standing still is the b as moving backward. Why? **Because thorns and weeds attack anything that stops moving.** Jesus said, "Come follow Me." That means He is going somewhere.

Why do we fast?

Why do we pray?

Why do we worship?

Why do we gather together with the saints?

Why do we ask someone to disciple us?

Why do we ask for accountability?

Because thorns are looking for something to climb on. Flesh is looking for an opportunity to climb off the altar and get comfortable. This is not the time for comfort, this is the age of sojourning and seeking and pressing on and laying hold of and seeing by faith when what you see lies to you and says there's nothing there. Matthew Henry said,

“Those that will deal with God must deal upon trust; we must quit the things that are seen for things that are not seen, and submit to the sufferings of this present time in hopes of a glory that is yet to be revealed ([Romans 8.18](#)); for we do not yet know what we shall be ([1 John 3.2](#)).”

When the kingdom comes in its fullness and we are all resurrected and glorified with Christ, we won't have the opportunity for living by faith, worshiping in the midst of trial, maturing under tension...that's what this life affords us...that's why the journey of Abraham is the journey of anyone who responds to the call of the gospel. **He went out not knowing where he was going, but he knew he wasn't going alone**...and that's all that mattered...that's all he needed to keep going.

Jesus has called us to come out of the lineage of Adam so that we can now be sons and daughters of YHWH...showing the world what He is like. Where He takes us and how He takes us there are completely up to Him. Those things matter not to us. What matters is that He is with us and thorns and weeds and flesh and enemies and devils have no chance to b those who keep moving forward in Christ.

I want to close by showing some instances where an individual is asked to come out from where they have lived and b God into a new life. We've looked at Abraham, but listen to these other examples:

[Joshua 1:2, 9](#) - God tells Joshua, “Go over the Jordan River, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them...do not be afraid for the Lord your

God is with you wherever you go.”

**Judges 6:14, 16** - God tells Gideon, “Go in the strength you have...for surely I will be with you.”

**Exodus 3:10, 12** - God tells Moses, “I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people out of Egypt...I will certainly be with you.”

**Isaiah 41:9, 10** - God tells Israel, “I have called you from the farthest regions of the earth...fear not, I am with you...I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will withhold you with My righteous right hand.”

**Genesis 26:3** - God tells Isaac, “Sojourn in this land and I will be with you.”

**Matthew 28:19-20** - Jesus tells His disciples and all who would believe in His name through their testimony, “Go...make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

I heard an old preacher say, “You don’t get ‘lo, I am with you’ without ‘go ye therefore.’” That’s not a doctrine I want to sign off on, but the point is made, nonetheless - it is in our obedient response to the call to come follow Jesus, and the ongoing act of surrender to the call to continue to follow Him, that His presence with us becomes evident.

### **In Closing**

In **Genesis 28** Jacob is leaving his home to go find a wife. He has a dream-encounter with God and sees a ladder reaching into heaven with angels ascending and descending on it. God tells Jacob in this dream,

“I am the Lord God of your fathers...the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants...Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go”  
(**Genesis 28.13-15**).

Jacob wakes up and says,

“How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God and the gate of heaven...Surely, the Lord is in this place and I did not know it”  
(**Genesis 28.16-17**).

Many who start off well choose to lie down in a bed of thorns because they get tired of the journey. But the reality is, God is there to remind you that He is with you and He will give you the strength to keep surrendering, to keep going deeper, to not give up on Him or this life of faith. For those of you who feel tired, here the revelation of Jacob,

“Surely God is in this place and I didn’t even know it...God is with me even though I may have forgotten.”