

THE BIG IDEA: Sometimes you have to leave what's comfortable to live what's possible.

The Take-Off

Let's talk about 2 surprises right up front: a recliner in a field and me in that recliner!
My guess is that you weren't expecting either. After all, who puts a recliner in a field, right?
But what a great picture for where the Church is right now.
See, it's one thing to be in the wrong place.
It's quite another thing to be comfortable in the wrong place.
I believe that's where the Church finds herself today: comfortable in the wrong places.
How does God usually respond when His bride is far too happy being where she shouldn't?
He shakes things up.
He stirs us up.
He calls us out of the wrong places in order to lead us into the right places.
And He uses external circumstances to do it.
Need proof before I give you more proof?

Acts 8:1 / It only took the Church 7 chapters to get comfortable in the wrong place.

Acts 1:8 / Jesus was clear to go into all the world - Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth
7 chapters later, they were content to get bigger in Jerusalem and we read about what happened when God found them comfortable in the wrong place...

“On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.” (**Acts 8:1**)

God used discomfort to get the church back to the places she was supposed to already be.

He used persecution to cause discomfort in order to get the church back on track.

My guess is that a lot of us are feeling some of that discomfort, and so the point of this series is to remind ALL OF US that God still uses discomfort.

Why? Because the destiny He has for us as a church and you and I as individuals is too good to miss out on because we're chillin' in a recliner in a place we have no business being!

Let's summarize this whole series on the front end with a Big Idea: **sometimes you have to leave what's comfortable to live what's possible.**

Over the next few weeks, we're going to see examples throughout Scripture of God continually calling people away for what's comfortable and into what's possible.

Today, we're going to start with the unlikely call of an unlikely person, and it's found in **Genesis 12:1-3**.

1. First, a calling roadmap

- a. Let me give you a little roadmap from these verses that can help us navigate Abraham's life as well as our own: God calls us out of comfort into covenant to be conduits
- b. **Genesis 12:1 is the call**
 - From known to unknown
 - From comfort to discomfort
 - From country to kingdom
- c. **Genesis 12:2 is the covenant**
 - Known as the Abrahamic Covenant
 - It is God's Word to Abraham and it's fulfillment is on God, not Abraham
 - Abraham's part is simply to obey the call
- d. **Genesis 12:3 is the conduit**
 - This is the end result of the call
 - All people all over the earth being blessed BY God THROUGH Abraham
 - What we'll see in this series is that discomfort is how God cleans the conduit cloggers out of us

2. Don't let these 3 things stop you on the way out

a. Just based on Abraham's life, let's talk about 3 things that can stop us on the way out of comfort - these can be calling killers that keep us from being calling fulfillers

b. ONE: Our chains

- Our family history can keep us tied to the recliner
- Abraham came from a culture of idolatry
 - Abraham's hometown, Ur, was known for its idolatry
 - Abraham's father worshipped other gods (**Joshua 24:2**)
- Abraham came from a culture of almost
 - **Acts 7:2** and **Genesis 15:7** reveal Abraham received the call in Ur
 - But he stopped and settled in Haran - and the whole family was okay with a 205 year pit stop!

c. TWO: Our pains

- Why did he stop? We don't know for sure, but it's interesting to me that he stopped in a place with the same name as his son who died in Genesis 11:28
- Sometimes it's easier to sit in our pain and hurt than it is to trust God to take us through it

d. THREE: Our brains

- This last one may be the biggest one - it's easy to let our reasoning stop us
- I'm not saying that we shouldn't think; I'm saying that a life of faith requires trust beyond our thinking
- **Isaiah 55:9** / His ways and thoughts are higher than ours
- **Philippians 4:7** / we need to allow His peace to "outrank" our understanding
- God looked at an old, pagan man with a barren wife and promised to make him into a great nation
- That's a head-scratcher, right? How did Abraham respond to that?
- **Romans 4:18-21** / he believed beyond his understanding!
- God's call supersedes our opinion of His call

The Landing

Let's wrap this up by talking to 2 groups: those of you who are following Jesus and those who aren't.

What we learn about Abraham's calling is good news for both of you!

Galatians 3:14 tells us that the blessings given to Abraham become ours in Christ

But what's the good news for those who aren't following Jesus? They can be yours, too!

And none of the things that tried to keep Abraham from the promise can keep you from it, either.

No chain of family history, or pain from past tragedy, or brains that can't comprehend your destiny can stop it

None of it can overcome what's possible through you when you say yes to Jesus....

IF

You choose to answer the call out of comfort into covenant to be a conduit.

Can it be scary leaving what we know to head toward what we don't? Of course.

Even though Abraham didn't know where he was going, he did know Who was going with him.

That's what enabled him to leave what was comfortable to live what was possible.

It will do the same for me and you.

Let's pray.