

## START HERE #17: GENESIS 12:1-6 "THE FRIEND OF GOD"

### Oliver Cromwell (portrait) – Abraham – Friend of GOD

Skeptics don't believe God is friendly – ARGUMENT: CAPRICIOUS/ANGRY

**STORIES IN OT.....** relationship Adam/Eve – CovRainbow – care Hagar – kindness Rahab – mercy Ninevah, deliverance of Israel, **Friendship W/Abraham**

NOT JUST A JOB TO BE DONE – BUT A HEART THAT WAS LOVED – COMPANIONSHIP

- Restoring Eden (walked w/God)

**MP: Friendship is one of the most basic human needs and that need is most deeply met in a relationship with God.**

Abraham is a prototype – Aspects unique (true for all of us) – no cookie cutter

James 2:23 And Abraham was called the friend of God.

### FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD IS GRACIOUS AND PERSONAL

**ABE'S SITUATION** – Superstitious, polytheistic, God called Sin chief God - **INITIATES**

- No deserving reason chosen - **Why Abraham? Why you? Only God knows**
  - o Command – to leave – to trust (75 yrs old wife in mid 60's – lived in the same place your whole life – **Explain that** – where? – Why? **GOD**)

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

### GOD'S INVITATION

Isaiah 41:8 But you, Israel, *are* My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend.

What does it mean to be the friend of God? Not his buddy - Not **King** or friend, **Master** or Friend, **Lord** or Friend **AND**

To be a friend of God means to intimately know Him, to know His eternal purposes, and to join Him in their fulfillment.

- EXACTLY WHAT GOD DID WITH ABRAHAM – JESUS WITH US

John 15:15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

The gospel is an invitation to friendship with God.

### PRAYER:

### FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD MEANS GOD MAKES PROMISES THAT HE KEEPS

The promises to ABRAHAM (land, nation, name, protection, revolution)

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

- GOD DOESN'T MAKE PROMISES THAT HE WON'T KEEP (we don't c all of it)
  - o **ENDURE PATIENTLY – 25 years (lot, Eleazar) - BC GOD PROMISED**

Hebrews 6:13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, <sup>14</sup>saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."

<sup>15</sup>And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

- o **GIVE GOD GLORY BEFORE THE ANSWER COMES – WILLING/ABLE**

Romans 4:20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, <sup>21</sup>and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

## **FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD MEANS HIS PLAN FOR LEGACY IS POWERFUL**

THE EXPANSIVE PLAN OF GOD THROUGH THIS SMALL MOMENT

Collective power of humanity **vs** one small work exponential over time

- 4.4Billion (Abrahamic religion) – **JUST A SEED**
- HIS PLAN FOR YOU.... May seem small but it **WILL GROW (illustrate)**

Friendship with God means being a part of fulfilling His purposes.

A Sunday school teacher named **Edward Kimball** won a shoe store clerk to Jesus—his name was D.L. Moody. D.L. Moody traveled to England and awakened the heart of a young pastor —F.B. Meyer. F.B. Meyer became one of the great Bible expositors, came to the U.S. and preached on college campuses, and was used to convert a student to Christ—Wilbur Chapman. Wilbur Chapman attended one of Moody's meetings in Chicago and became D.L. Moody's co-worker. Wilbur Chapman employed an ex-baseball player as his assistant—Billy Sunday. Billy Sunday became a great evangelist and preached in Charlotte, North Carolina, at a meeting organized by the Billy Sunday Layman's Evangelistic Club. This club invited an evangelist to Charlotte; his name was Mordecai Ham. Mordecai Ham preached in the tent meeting and led a young man to Christ. His name was Billy Graham.

Let it be [our] first love to enter into an everlasting friendship with Christ that never shall be broken. Jonathon Edwards