The Journey Of Faith

Bruce Reeves · Romans 4:9–25

INTRODUCTION

- There are certain figures, I think, or characters in the Scripture that seem to be almost these very intimidating examples.
- The Scripture holds Abraham up as a very powerful, tremendous example of a man who exercised great faith, but that faith was meant to be emulated.
- But his negative experiences molded him and made him the man that he would become.

1 He Did Not Stagger at the Promise of God

Romans 4:9–11; Romans 4:17–21; Romans 4:23–25

- Abraham was saved by grace through faith. Now it was an obedient faith to be sure, but that's how Abraham was saved.
- Yet with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, he was able also to perform.
- The word stagger is the idea of hesitate.

2 Abraham Had Not Always Been in That Place

Genesis 12:10–13; Genesis 15:1–2; Genesis 16:2

- But here's what I want us to understand tonight. Abraham had not always been in that place.
- Abraham made some mistakes, to be sure. He sinned seriously here.
- They're always trying to improvise to help God along. We tend to kind of like to help God, which is always a bad idea.
- But Abraham, whether we realize it or not, step by step, even in the bad decisions, was growing.

3 Why Was Abraham Struggling?

Genesis 16:2; Genesis 21:9–12

- Well, in Genesis 12 and 20, he was afraid.
- We all have fear, but our faith must discipline us, and God's grace must discipline us.
- In Genesis chapter 16 and verse 2, you could argue he was trying to please men and trying to please Sarah.
- He was plagued by the consequences of his past mistakes.

4 He Grew and He Had to Be Tested

Genesis 22:10–14; Hebrews 11:17–19; Romans 4:18–19

- He grew. He journeyed into that point in his faith.

- Before he had anxiety and fear and all of those things, but this time, Abraham obeys.
- Do not stretch out your hand against the lad and do nothing to him. For now I know that you fear God.
- There is a time to trust the Lord, despite what objections we may have in our mind.

5 Don’t Let Your Snapshots Become the Whole Picture

- These moments, that you see these weaknesses, are snapshots. Those are snapshots of Abraham’s life. It’s not the whole picture.
- But on the other side of that coin, and this is vital for us, don’t let your snapshots become the whole picture.
- Because the whole picture in Abraham’s life is one of faith and conviction, trust and obedience to God.

6 That’s How Faith Works

James 2:21–23; Genesis 15:6; Genesis 22

- Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?
- He had to climb the mountain, though. He didn’t just wake up on top of the mountain.
- So what God said to him in Genesis chapter 15, we see it come to full fruition and fulfillment in Genesis 22.
- What faith does, it takes me through my anxiety, it takes me through my cowardice, it takes me through my weakness, it takes me through my fear, and I keep trusting the Lord and serving him and obeying him.

THE CHALLENGE

Will you have the faith of Abraham?

MY NOTES