**Walk Through the Bible**

**Lesson Number Thirteen**

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**Abram’s Obedience, his Sojourns and the Promise**

Abram was born and raised in a city called Ur of the Chaldees or Ur of the Chaldeans. It was in present day Turkey just north of Syria. He, his wife Sarai, his father and his nephew Lot, move to Harran, a city south, southwest of Ur. Eventually, Abram along with his wife and nephew move on down to the land of Canaan.

By this time in his life, Abram had become a wealthy man with servants and a lot of livestock. He also had the possessions he had inherited from his father.

**Abram’s Call and God’s Promises**

**Genesis 12:1-6**

The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. 2**I will make you into a great nation.** **I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. 3I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”**

4**So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed**, and Lot went with him. Abram was **seventy-five years old** when he left Haran. 5He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all his wealth—his livestock and **all the people he had taken into his household at Haran**—and headed for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, 6Abram traveled through the land as far as Shechem. There he set up camp beside the oak of Moreh. At that time, **the area was inhabited by Canaanites**.

Abram was **OBEDIENT** to God’s call.

**OBEDIENCE**

It is important that, when God calls us and gives us specific instruction that we obey.

We can give all we have to God but **unless we** **OBEY** God’s instructions, all of our giving is useless.

**God really doesn’t NEED your stuff! He does, however, desire your heart!**

**1 Samuel 15:22 (NLT)**

But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! **Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.**

Whatever God has called you to, He will give you the strength to accomplish it.

### The Rich Young Ruler

Mark 10:17-27

17As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

18“Why do you call me good?” Jesus asked. “Only God is truly good. 19But to answer your question, you know the commandments: ‘You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.’”

20“Teacher,” the man replied, “I’ve obeyed all these commandments since I was young.”

21Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. “There is still one thing you haven’t done,” he told him. “Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

22At this the man’s face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

23Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!” 24This amazed them. But Jesus said again, “Dear children, it is very hard to enter the Kingdom of God. 25In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!”

26The disciples were astounded. “Then who in the world can be saved?” they asked.

27Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God.”

This guy was doing all the “RELIGIOUS” things but it wasn’t what Christ required.

**Why did Jesus tell the rich young ruler that he needed to sell EVERYTHING and give the money to the poor?**

Jesus wanted him to be OBEDIENT! It had nothing to do with his things.

God doesn’t care if you are rich, as long as the riches are not your god!

It is SO easy to become dependent upon your money and things instead of being dependent upon God!

Jesus did not say that rich people cannot go to Heaven. He said it is hard for them because they don’t have to trust in God like poor people do!

The “eye of the needle” were small gates that were entered normally, only by people. A camel, if it were unloaded, could get through the “eye of the needle” by crawling.

Jesus shows us that NO ONE can be saved without God’s Grace!

***“God does not call the equipped, He equips the called!”***

God will not call you to do something that you can’t do. If God does call you to do something, you may feel like it is too great a task or you may feel that you are not equipped to carry out that calling. Our flesh and our soul (our mind, our will and our intellect) will want us to believe that we cannot carry out God’s call and, of course, Satan is going to lie to us and tells us that we cannot do what God has called us to do.

If God has called you to a specific calling and those doubts come your way, remember this:

1. Satan is a liar.
	1. Remind him of that and don’t fall for his schemes.
	2. Walk by FAITH and NOT by SIGHT!
	3. We CAN do anything God calls us to do!

**2 Corinthians 2:11**

so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are **familiar with his evil schemes**.

Any country that goes to war, studies its opponents. If you don’t know how your enemy operates, there is a great chance that you will lose the war!

As we study the Word of God, we become familiar with how Satan operates and we also become aware of our Father’s nature!

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 Many Christians learn, what they believe is God’s nature, through sermons they hear or books they read. These sources of information can lead you **FAR from God**.

 This results in “tradition” that is passed down from generation to generation in the church which is not always true! For example, this is a very well known passage of scriptures but it has been **“wrongly divided”** for many generations by the church!

**Matthew 7:7-11 (NKJV)**

7“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 9Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

Even some versions of the Bible are full of men’s thoughts and not necessarily God’s TRUE Word! The King James is very close to the original languages from which it was translated. The English Standard Version and the American Standard Version are very good translations. I Amplified version of the Bible is not so good. The Amplified is a “commentary” on the Word of God. Instead of God’s uncompromised Word, men’s ideas have been added along with the Word. This is okay as long as the Word of God is rightly divided but in the case of Matthew 7, it is not.

I was confronted by a certain associate pastor of a large churcdh about the passage of scripture above (Mt 7:7-11). He, like many other believers believed we have to ask and ask and ask before God will answer our prayers. He told me he looked at the Greek and the verbs, ask, seek and find, in this passage of scripture are in the imperative! What does it mean when a verb is in the imperative? It means it WILL be done! It is IMPERATIVE! It requires immediate action according to the dictionary.

If I give you directions to drive to a certain place and I tell you to go down a street that dead ends and I tell you, “It is IMPERATIVE that you turn left or right at the end of the street, you had better listen! If you don’t you will probably crash since the street dead ends!

So when Jesus said, “Ask” He meant that we should ask! He never implied that we had to keep on asking and hopefully, maybe after years of asking He **might** answer our prayer.

**Mark 11:24 (KJ2000)**

Therefore I say unto you, whatever things you desire, **when you pray, believe that you will receive them**, and you shall have them.

In **Mark 7:13** Jesus told us that these traditions which are handed down from men make the Word of God of no effect. They rob the Word of its power and invalidate it!

Think about the VERY BEST father you know and how he treats his children. Then realize that God is infinitely better as a father than that father you know!

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Back to our lesson on Obedience, Satan almost always tries to discourage us from doing God’s will by speaking doubt into our brains. The second thing that happens is that we feel like we are not adequate enough to do what God called us to do or that we do not have adequate resources.

Don’t let yourself be deceived by your fears!

**1 John 4:18 (ESV)**

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

**2 Corinthians 5:7**

for we walk by faith, not by sight.

**Never, EVER, put your trust in yourself when it comes to doing what God says!**

What made Abram so great in God’s eyes is that he OBEYED. When God said to do something, Abram did it!

**Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT)**

28Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30**For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”**

Lester Sumrall, a great man of God, was called to the mission field and he left this country with something like $14 in his pocket and lived the next several decades in the Philippines and other nations in that area. There was a young lady in one of the prisons in the Philippines who was demon possessed. The system did not know how to deal with her. Sumrall went into the prison and through the power of the Holy Spirit in his life, he cast the demons out of the young girl. The whole thing made the national news and he was regarded as a national hero for the rest of his life. The young girl ended up living a normal life, marrying and having children and serving the Lord the rest of her life.

Sumrall could have stayed here in the states using the lack of money as an excuse for not doing what God had called him to do. Think about all of the people who would not have been blessed if he would have not followed God’s leading!

Michael Higgins who founded the homeless ministry, Jesus Loves You, Love Him Back, has carried out the call on his life to feed the homeless spiritually and physically even though there is very little money each and every week. Had Michael not followed God’s leading, many people would have not come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior!

**Genesis 12:6 tells us that when Abram went to the land of Canaan, it was full of Canaanites. Why would the Bible tells us this? What is the significance of this?**

These “Canaanites” were giants. We know that giants filled the land before Noah and the reason God destroyed the earth with a flood was because the giants were everywhere throughout the earth and they were extremely wicked. We know that angels must have fallen a second time, after Noah’s flood. We are not sure exactly when they fell but we see them already in the time of Abram in the land of Canaan!

King David killed Goliath when he was a young man and then later, when he was king, his army killed the four remaining giants in the land.

Before Noah’s flood there were many races of giants. They were the result of angels, who disobeyed God, and they mated with natural, human women. Their offspring were giants and then giants had sexual relations with other giants and natural, human women and produced more giants. Besides just the Canaanites, their races are listed as:

Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaims, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, Jebusites, Hivites, Anakims, Emims, Horims, Avims, Zamzummims, Caphtorims, and Nephilims.

See [“Giants and the Sons of God”](http://www.jaymc.com/truthsowers/Charts/DakesGiants.docx) from the Dake Annotated Reference Bible.

Where God called Abram was NOT an easy place!

The first church I pastored was NOT an easy place. The pastor before me charged all kinds of things to the church, including a grand piano that no one could play. He had each and every one of his sermons taped and sold the tapes. Unfortunately, he purchased all of the cassette tapes by credit and never paid for any of them. He had six little girls and his wife and his girls would eat at a restaurant owned by two new believers in Christ. They charged the meals and his bill got so large that, when the restaurant owner asked him to pay some on his bill, the pastor and his family started going to a restaurant across the street. The pastor bought an expensive Porsche with the church funds.

Bear in mind, this was long ago in the late 1980’s and the churched owed $60,000 in debt not including the monthly payments they had agreed to for the church building.

The man that had started the organization that the church was under flew to Lamar, Colorado and went with the pastor of the church to a local bank to see if they could borrow $60,000 to pay off their debts. Thankfully, the bank declined to offer them the money. I firmly doubt that any payments would have ever been made to the bank.

At some time in this mess, the pastor also began an affair with a married woman in the church. He would “counsel” her behind closed doors without his wife or her husband being there. Their counseling sessions were more than counseling sessions. The pastor finally knocked his wife out, leaving her for dead and left with the married woman he had been pastoring.

At one time, church membership had been up to around 120. When I first preached at the church they were running about 30. We were able to build it back up to about 60 which is not a bad number for that small of a town. We tried to pay off the debt that was owed. I spoke to all of people that were owed money and told them that we were trying to get them paid off. A local air conditioning company had put heating and air conditioning in the building and they were still owed over $3,500 for their services. We signed an agreement with them to pay a certain amount a month on their bill.

My salary was $550 a month and I never got a full paycheck. In fact, there were times I didn’t get a paycheck.

My first church was a tough place! But, I knew God had called me there and I was able to minister to those people and we saw God move among them!

If God has not called you to anything specific, get involved somewhere and be a blessing. If you do that, then God can begin to move you into your calling. 0 times any other number is always 0! If you aren’t doing anything for the body of Christ, then I can guarantee you that you aren’t going to find your calling! Kenneth Hagin used to say, “Your gifts and calling will make room for themselves!” They will BUT you must make yourself available for God to use.

Hebrews 11 is commonly referred to as the “Heroes of Faith” chapter. I read that scripture before I started reading through the whole Bible. As I began to read through the Old Testament, I couldn’t believe how ornery some of our “Heroes of Faith” were!

**Hebrews 11:8,9 (NLT)**

8It was by faith that Abraham **obeyed** when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. 9And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents.

**Things did not always go easy for Abram. He endured through famine and through hard times!**

**Hebrews 12:10-20 (NLT)**

10At that time a severe famine struck the land of Canaan, forcing Abram to go down to Egypt, where he lived as a foreigner. 11As he was approaching the border of Egypt, Abram said to his wife, Sarai, “Look, you are a very beautiful woman. 12When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife. Let’s kill him; then we can have her!’ 13So please tell them you are my sister. Then they will spare my life and treat me well because of their interest in you.”

14And sure enough, when Abram arrived in Egypt, everyone noticed Sarai’s beauty. 15When the palace officials saw her, they sang her praises to Pharaoh, their king, and Sarai was taken into his palace. 16Then Pharaoh gave Abram many gifts because of her—sheep, goats, cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

17But the Lord sent terrible plagues upon Pharaoh and his household because of Sarai, Abram’s wife. 18So Pharaoh summoned Abram and accused him sharply. “What have you done to me?” he demanded. “Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife? 19Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ and allow me to take her as my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and get out of here!” 20Pharaoh ordered some of his men to escort them, and he sent Abram out of the country, along with his wife and all his possessions.

**Abram, our man of PROMISE was a COWARD AND A DECEIVER!**

Abram, Sarai and Lot were ordered out of Egypt!

**Did you notice how Abram’s lies and deceit brought trouble, not only to him and his family but also to all of Egypt?**

**God has called you to be a blessing to all those around you! I first noticed this in Sandy Patti’s life. She is one of the greatest singers to ever live. When she operates in her gift, others are blessed.**

**God meant for Abram to be a blessing to all those he was around. But, through his lies and through his deceit, he was just the opposite. He brought a curse on them!**

**Genesis 13 (NLT)**

So Abram left Egypt and traveled north into the Negev, along with his wife and Lot and all that they owned. 2(Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold.) 3From the Negev, they continued traveling by stages toward Bethel, and they pitched their tents between Bethel and Ai, where they had camped before. 4This was the same place where Abram had built the altar, and there he worshiped the Lord again.

5Lot, who was traveling with Abram, had also become very wealthy with flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and many tents. 6But the land could not support both Abram and Lot with all their flocks and herds living so close together. 7So disputes broke out between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot. (At that time Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land.)

8Finally Abram said to Lot, “Let’s not allow this conflict to come between us or our herdsmen. After all, we are close relatives! 9The whole countryside is open to you. Take your choice of any section of the land you want, and we will separate. If you want the land to the left, then I’ll take the land on the right. If you prefer the land on the right, then I’ll go to the left.”

10Lot took a long look at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar. The whole area was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the Lord or the beautiful land of Egypt. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) 11Lot chose for himself the whole Jordan Valley to the east of them. He went there with his flocks and servants and parted company with his uncle Abram. 12So Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot moved his tents to a place near Sodom and settled among the cities of the plain. 13But the people of this area were extremely wicked and constantly sinned against the Lord.

14After Lot had gone, the Lord said to Abram, **“Look as far as you can see in every direction—north and south, east and west. 15I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendantsas a permanent possession. 16And I will give you so many descendants that, like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted! 17Go and walk through the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you.”**

18So Abram moved his camp to Hebron and settled near the oak grove belonging to Mamre. There he built another altar to the Lord.

**God called Abram to CANAAN**. Yet, we see Abram letting Lot make the decision if he wanted Canaan or the land that looked much, much better.

We will see later what happened to Lot and what the place was like where he chose to go.

God blessed Abram in the desert! Even to this day, Israel is a desert but God blesses that little country and it is a fertile land just because of God’s blessings!