



St. Michael's Church
CHARLESTON, SC

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021

REMARKABLE TRUST

GENESIS 11:27-12:8

PREACHER: THE REV. AL ZADIG, JR.

HELP US LORD TO BE SO CONNECTED TO YOU THAT WE MIGHT BECOME YOUR
DISCIPLES AND THE SERVANTS OF OTHERS.

TAKE OUR LIPS AND SPEAK THROUGH THEM,
OUR MINDS AND THINK THROUGH THEM,
AND TAKE OUR HEARTS, AND SET THEM ON FIRE.

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Some years ago, a father takes his first born son, and stands him on the railing of his back porch. Then goes down and stands on the lawn encouraging the little fella to jump into his arms. "I'll catch you!" Jump!! After more coaxing, the boy finally makes the leap. As the sweet little boy is flying through the air...surprisingly, the father steps back and lets the child fall to the ground, like flat on his face! A bit bruised and confused the son looks at the father. The father picks him up and says son..."Let that be a lesson...."Don't ever trust anyone."

I know, you were looking for a sweet ending to that story weren't you! Isn't that our culture today?

- Trust no one
- Live Cynically
- Always look over your shoulder.

Well, thank God for Genesis 12 and the story of Abram. Genesis 12 can be summed up in 2 words...

1. REMARKABLE
2. TRUST.

Let me back up and as we move through Genesis this fall, last week you heard Randy take us into Genesis 11 and the tower of Babel. How sin like Kudzu towers over and suffocates the ancient peoples. Yes because of their repeated Sin, God is angry at the people forcing Him to cut back the human race from the face of the earth. Genesis 11 tells us there is one faithful family line left. The family line of Shem....the only family line on earth that had maintained the knowledge of God and passed it on from generation to generation.

From Shem's extended family, the Bible whittles the faithful to just the family of Terah as found in Genesis 11:27. But horror of horrors! The name Terah means moon. Meaning the last family

thought to be faithful, thought to be preserving the one true God has gone to idol worship of the moon god! How do we know this? Joshua 24: God says:

- “Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates,
- Terah, the father of Abram and Nahor;
- They served other gods.

It looks like the last family, the last man, the last hope...is gone. The human race has hit a dark, dead end. Wow. Have you ever experienced this kind of Darkness? No hope, the midnight of your soul--darkness all around you?

Only when we put ourselves into that darkness will Genesis 12 help us discover the power of remarkable trust. Out of that darkness and from a place of Love, God whispers: Abram-Abram!

- Leave your country...
- Leave your people
- leave your pagan religion
- Go to a land I will show you.

Trust Me!

1. I will make you into a great nation
2. I will bless you, for you to bless others
3. I will protect you--

Trust Me Abram, through you I'm making a new Chapter for the human race!

God taking initiative to save humanity through Abram! Wow! This is the moment Abram is introduced to the world for the first time! Yes he's the same guy as Abraham. His name would be changed 5 chapters later to Abraham when God makes a declaration over him. But here he's plain old idol-worshipping-Abram....

Okay, put yourself now into Abram's shoes. Two major problems that could prevent his trust: First...We talk about Abram like he's an energetic 30 year old with a new wife ready to take off in his convertible. Nooooo. The Bible says Abram is 75 years old when asked to trust God. Going from paganism to mono-theism at 75!!!! I mean, that's like a 75 year old Gamecock fan becoming a Tiger! Leaving his community at 75. Don't ever tell me you're too old for any ministry.

I love the story told by Walter Pitkin called: "Life Begins at 40." Pitkin says...A few days ago, I was playing baseball with some boys and I hit a double. Granted, when I got to second base, my breath was still on first and my heart was on third! Age doesn't mean being complacent and backward looking!

Second...God doesn't even tell Abram where He wants him to go! I mean, at least to the Rev. David Booman God said, "David take your wife Caity and boys and go to Sumter South Carolina. You'll find a church on 213 North Main Street...lead it." Not so with Abram. "Abram go ... at some point...I'll show you...for now, just GO!"

We hear this repeated in Hebrews 11: "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called, he went out, not knowing where he was going." Remarkable trust!

And...how on earth would Abram get his wife on board? "Honey, I know we're getting up there in age. I know we currently worship many gods. Um...apparently there is one true God, He wants us to leave everything...and go to a place, He'll show us later..

Oh to be a fly on that wall!

Out of radical trust, Abram-says-yes. Verse 4...Abram...left. Abram left. Remarkable initiative of love from God. Remarkable trust out of Abram. It was C.H. Spurgeon who said...To trust God in the light is nothing...but trusting God in the dark, now that is faith.

It couldn't have been any darker for Abram...proving..

- “you and I absolutely do not have to have a certain amount of knowledge before we trust....
- We may not know our destination
- And age doesn't matter!
- Remarkable Trust!

MY DEAR FRIENDS, In this crazy world we live in right now...I wonder if your trust in God has eroded? Perhaps you're in a time of darkness where dreams and joy have gone dark. You're depressed by the world. Could this be a verse 4 day...where like Abram, we are willing to say: God, I still trust you. Destroy the Abram-like idols in my life. An idol by the way is anything in life we choose over God...

- Addictions
- Even Work-a-holism?

Idols can even be good things like:

- Hobbies
- Kids
- And sports

God, take me, take us to a new place of trust...!

But you might be here today saying I can't. I'm not there. I'm no Abram. I can't trust this way. My response to you? You're right. You can't! It's not in you or me to trust this way.

Back to Abram. The Bible says Abram was blessed to be a blessing. To be exact, 41 generations after Abram, the blessing of the Savior of the World, Jesus is born. Through Abrams line, comes Jesus! Jesus who came to die for our sins to give us life, that all who believe and Trust in His name will live! And not only live but receive the Holy Spirit who gives us the strength to have remarkable trust! We can't do it on our own! Holy Spirit give me trust like I've never had before!

And that my friends, is why God gave us the tithe. Tithing is an X-RAY. You take an x ray to see if a bone is broken. TITHING IS AN X-RAY TO SEE IF YOUR TRUST IS BROKEN! Tithing answers the question...Do I trust Jesus...or not? What is the tithe? The Tithe is giving 10% of all I've been given back to Christ who gave it to me in the first place! 10% of anything is a lot, and it's certainly not a contribution because it's his before it's ours! There are many reasons not to trust and tithe. For the younger generation, it's Once I have a regular income I'll trust. For those in mid-life...As soon as I pay off all those school tuitions and car payments for my kids, I'll trust. Those in elder age.. We give to other good causes like the symphony and United Way. That's broken trust. Through the Holy Spirit, following the trust of Abram.

The X-Ray of the tithe reveals the level of our trust! It's why in Luke 16 Jesus says...Whoever can be trusted with small things, can be trusted with big things!

My friends, the Global Christian movement needs a new surge of Abramic trust from each of us. As we prayerfully come out of Covid, it's time for the church to surge back with radical trust! Tithing Christians rising up in trust taking on great things in His name! In addition to tithing...for some it's trusting by getting back into the habit of worshipping in person again! You've gotten out of the habit and need to get back into your pew! In fact, let me give you examples of trust from the last two Sundays at St. Michael's.

You heard Two weeks ago about how Out of trust, Eric Nelson is dedicating his life to ministry to the courts and he invited you into it! That might be God's call to you! Trust Him and watch the blessing though like Abram you don't know where it will lead!

You heard last week how Out of trust Shea and Shaun Chambers are dedicating themselves to the sanctity of life for all ages. They invited you to the walk for life! That might be God's call to you! Trust Him...though again, you don't know where it will lead! Remarkable Trust. Come Holy Spirit remove our idols and give us the trust to step out and into action!

Finally this morning, I end with Herbert Howells. It was his hymn we just sang before the Gospel reading. Herbert was a composer born in England in 1892. Herbert and his wife had one child named Michael. As an only child Michael was adored! But Michael contracted polio and despite every treatment known at that time, Michael died. It crushed Herbert to the core. Crushed him to the point he knew he had to make a decision. Out of anger he could abandon God...like never trust Him again. Or, he could embrace and further trust the lord to deliver him. Herbert began to trust, by taking refuge in Jesus by using his musical gifts. The result is that hymn we sung...All Our Hope on God is Founded. By the way, the music, the melody of the hymn has a name, the name is...Michael. Hear the words of that hymn...All my hope on God is founded, He doth still my trust renew. Me through change and chance he guideth only good, and only true. God unknown he alone, calls my heart to be his own...

Your age doesn't matter. Knowing the destination doesn't matter. With the courage of Abram, through the strength of the Holy Spirit. Trust-take action that would bring blessing.