

Abram: The Man, The Myth, The Legend

The most interesting man in the world:

An odd beginning:

Genesis 11:27-32

An amazing call:

Genesis 12:1-4

A great start:

Genesis 12:4-9

Something to consider:

- ▶ Never forget that the word of God is the **Word of God**.
- ▶ Our purpose is to make **God's name great**, not ours.
- ▶ We are **blessed** to be a **blessing**.
- ▶ God loves to work in the most **hopeless** and **helpless** of situations.

Food for Thought

For the week of November 18, 2012

(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

1. One of the patterns to follow from Abram is to never forget the power of God's word. How do the following verses reinforce the power of God's word and importance of listening to it?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, [17] so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. [NIV]

Psalm 119:11

*I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.* [NIV]

Psalm 119:23

*Though rulers sit together and slander me,
your servant will meditate on your decrees.* [NIV]

Psalm 119:27

*Let me understand the teaching of your precepts;
then I will meditate on your wonders.* [NIV]

Psalm 119:99

*I have more insight than all my teachers,
for I meditate on your statutes.* [NIV]

Psalm 33:4-6

*For the word of the Lord is right and true;
he is faithful in all he does.
[5] The Lord loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of his unfailing love.*

*[6] By the word of the Lord were the heavens made,
their starry host by the breath of his mouth.* [NIV]

Romans 15:4

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. [NIV]

John 12:44-50

Then Jesus cried out, "When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. [45] When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me. [46] I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

[47] "As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. [48] There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. [49] For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. [50] I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say." [NIV]

2. Just as God chose Abram he has also chosen us to not only follow him, but also to be used by him to influence and encourage others. As you read Colossians 3:12-17 write down some specific examples of how putting into practice the various character qualities it lists can have an influence at your work, home or with your friends.

Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. [13] Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. [14] And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

[15] Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. [16] Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. [17] And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. [NIV]

Are there any character qualities you should particularly focus on this next week?

3. Thanksgiving week is a good time to slow our pace for a bit and thank God for all he has done for us. Read through Psalm 145 and jot down all that comes to mind that you are thankful for based on who God is and what he has done for you. Now take some time and think specifically of what you can thank God for in regards to family, friends, co-workers, opportunities, and possessions.

Psalm 145:1-21

A psalm of praise. Of David.

I will exalt you, my God the King;

I will praise your name for ever and ever.

[2] Every day I will praise you

and extol your name for ever and ever.

[3] Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.

[4] One generation will commend your works to another;
they will tell of your mighty acts.

[5] They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

[6] They will tell of the power of your awesome works,
and I will proclaim your great deeds.

[7] They will celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

- [8] The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.
- [9] The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.
- [10] All you have made will praise you, O Lord;
your saints will extol you.
- [11] They will tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,
- [12] so that all men may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- [13] Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.
- The Lord is faithful to all his promises
and loving toward all he has made.
- [14] The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.
- [15] The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.
- [16] You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.
- [17] The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and loving toward all he has made.
- [18] The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
- [19] He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.
- [20] The Lord watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.
- [21] My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.
Let every creature praise his holy name
for ever and ever. [NIV]