

WEEK 6: "Commitment"

Sermon Notes:

OPENING QUESTIONS

- 1 What motivates you to go to work every day?
- 2 What does it look like to commit to something?

Genesis 14:18-20

And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some bread and wine.¹⁹ Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing: "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. 20 And blessed be God Most High, who has defeated your enemies for you." Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered.

1 How did Abram’s gift to Melchizedek demonstrate his commitment to God?

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 (AMP)

Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses].² For by this [kind of] faith the men of old gained [divine] approval.

⁸ *By faith Abraham, when he was called [by God], obeyed by going to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went, not knowing where he was going.* ⁹ *By faith he lived as a foreigner in the promised land, as in a strange land, living in tents [as nomads] with Isaac and Jacob, who were fellow heirs of the same promise.* ¹⁰ *For he was [waiting expectantly and confidently] looking forward to the city which has foundations, [an eternal, heavenly city] whose architect and builder is God.* ¹¹ *By faith even Sarah herself received the ability to conceive [a child], even [when she was long] past the normal age for it, because she considered Him who had given her the promise to be reliable and true [to His word].* ¹² *So from one man, though he was [physically] as good as dead, were born as many descendants AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND ON THE SEASHORE.* ¹³ *All these died in faith [guided and sustained by it], without receiving the [tangible fulfillment of God's] promises, only having seen (anticipated) them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.*

¹⁴ Now those who say such things make it clear that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ And if they had been thinking of that country from which they departed [as their true home], they would have had [a continuing] opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But the truth is that they were longing for a better country, that is, a heavenly one. For that reason God is not ashamed [of them or] to be called their God [even to be surnamed their God—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob]; for He has prepared a city for them.

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested [that is, as the testing of his faith was still in progress], offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises [of God] was ready to sacrifice his only son [of promise];

¹⁸ to whom it was said, “Through Isaac your descendants shall be called.” ¹⁹ For he considered [it reasonable to believe] that God was able to raise Isaac even from among the dead. [Indeed, in the sense that he was prepared to sacrifice Isaac in obedience to God] Abraham did receive him back [from the dead] figuratively speaking.

Abraham left a legacy of faithfulness, but it did not come quickly or easily.
Faith never does.

- 1 How is faith demonstrated in each of the three examples from Abraham’s life?

② Who comes to mind when you think of someone who has left a legacy?
What is something you commit to that you want to be remembered for?

③ How can the commitments you make today affect tomorrow?

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