



December 3  
Thursday  
Genesis 12.1-7

This is one of my favorite call stories in the Bible. Just before these verses, in chapter 11, Abram is introduced this way: "When Terah had lived seventy years, he became the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran" (Genesis 11.26). Terah's lineage is delineated, and we learn Abram took Sarai as his wife; she was barren. Then we learn that Terah took Abram, Sarai, and his grandson, Lot son of Haran, from Ur to Haran. And then Terah died (Genesis 11.27-32).

Time passes: soon Abram is 75. His face is lined with wrinkles; he is no longer a young man. The very next words we read are these: "Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you'" (Genesis 12.1). Out of the blue, without any introduction, God appears to Abram; he has no idea whatsoever who the Lord is. God continues: "'I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed'" (Genesis 12.2-3).

Listening to God, Abram might have thought something like this: Who is this guy? Why is he telling me all this? How can he make such promises when Sarai is unable to have children? Abram might have thought all this, but what he does is what is truly compelling: "So Abram went, as the Lord had told him" (Genesis 12.4a). Collecting Sarai and Lot and their entire household, Abram went. Without any idea of where they were headed, without any sense of how long it would take, without knowing how they would survive. They loaded up and left everything familiar behind, with only a promise to sustain them, with only an unknown God to guide them.

It is the remarkable beginning of a remarkable relationship that results in a remarkable lineage of his own, whose descendants number greater than the stars. And all because this humble man from humble origins believed the God of the universe and went. No questions asked.

**Holy God, we are unfit to be called, to be loved, by you. And yet, you call us, you love us, you claim us as your children. Thank you for the faith of Abraham which continues to inspire us. Grant that we may have a measure of his courage, his conviction, as well. For you are with us. Amen.**

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