

Leaving Your Father's House

by Russ McGuire

My son is about to graduate from High School. This article is for those who, like him, feel called to go out from their father's house to the future that God has for them - some to college, some to the workforce, and some to ministry.

In some ways, you are like Abraham and I bring him to your attention as an example and a lesson. The writer of Hebrews tells us "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." (Hebrews 11:8-10 KJV)

There are three things I want you to take from what the Bible teaches us about Abraham as you too are called out of your father's house:

1. Have confidence in God.
2. Wherever God leads you, worship Him!
3. This stepping out in faith is foundational for the rest of your life.

Let's talk just a little more about each of these points.

First, have confidence in God. Within this one point, I think there are three very important things to remember about Abraham.

This passage that we've just read tells us that Abraham didn't know where he was going. Many young men and women, as they approach high school graduation, struggle with the question of "what do you want to be when you grow up?" If that's you, be encouraged. Look to your spiritual forefather Abraham - he didn't know where he was going, but he went out to the place that God called him.

But some of you are pretty confident you know where you're headed, and you may be absolutely right! When I graduated from high school, I thought I knew what my college plans were, but I ended up graduating with a different degree from a different college. Similarly, when I started my career, I thought it would go in one direction, but God has taken me down a very different, but rewarding path. God has been very good to me - infinitely better than I deserve - He has led me to where I am and it is a much better place than any of MY plans. If God leads you to a different

place than your current plans, you can go in confidence!

I've been saying "have confidence in God" - another word I could've used is "faith."

You have many advantages that I did not have when I graduated from high school. You've been homeschooled! You've been raised in homes that value the Word of God. Your parents have taken you to church. You've heard the gospel! Don't squander these rich blessings!

Abraham was also obedient to God. We read this most dramatically in Genesis 22 where Abraham was ready to sacrifice his only son in obedience to God.

So, have confidence in God. Wherever he leads you, go in faith and obedience.

The **second** major lesson I want you to take from Abraham's life is that, wherever he went, he worshipped God.

Let's look at the very beginning of Abraham's - or as he was called then Abram's - going out to where God had called him.

"And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD."
(Genesis 12:6-8, KJV)

If you study Abraham's life in the Bible, you will see that he will build other altars as he travels, and he will return to altars that he previously built. Don't misunderstand me - I'm not telling you to build an altar. When Abraham was traveling amongst the Canaanites, there weren't any churches he could visit and join, so he had to establish a place to worship God.

We are blessed to live in a country where there seems to be a church on every corner. Some are "better" than others - although you'll never find a "perfect" church this side of heaven. As God calls you out from your father's house, make it a priority to find a place to worship God. Find a church filled with brothers and sisters who will encourage you and hold you accountable. Find good teaching that will help you grow in truth and grace - a place where you can worship our Lord in spirit and in truth.

The **third** lesson for us from Abraham's life is to realize how foundational this step that you're taking is to not only your life, but to the generations that will come after you.

Abraham's life was long and complex. He wasn't perfect. He made mistakes and those sins had consequences. He had to be patient and wait a very long time before God's promised son, Isaac, was born. Hebrews even tells us that Abraham "died in faith, not having received the promises." But all that God did in Abraham's life was establishing the foundation, first for the nation of Israel, and now for us Christians.

At some point in your life, most of you will get married. Most will raise children (and hopefully be blessed to homeschool them). As you step out, look at Abraham and recognize that the steps you are taking now, as God calls you out of your father's house, are establishing the inheritance of your children. That inheritance includes the earning ability that will provide a material inheritance, but also an emotional inheritance, and most importantly a spiritual inheritance. The thought patterns and habits that you establish now will have a profound impact on the family that you will establish in the years to come.

A wise friend of mine recommended a habit that young adults can establish now. Today you have more time than money. Consider tithing your time. God has given you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Consider how you could give 17 hours a week, or roughly two and a half hours a day back to God - in worship, in reading His Word, in prayer, and in service. What a wonderful inheritance you could be building starting today!

So, as you are called by God out of your father's house, go forth with faith and obedience, in confidence where God will lead you. Worship Him wherever you go, and establish a solid foundation for your life and for the future family that God may bless you with.

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