

## Sunday Services

Every Sunday Pastor Bob's sermon is taped. If you have missed a service or know of someone who would like a copy of a particular sermon please call RCC at (218) 463-3405. Leave your name, phone number and the date of the sermon you would



8/8/04

Prelude: Shelly Aubey

Hymn: 1 "Oh Worship The King"

Scripture: Matthew 11:25-30

Hymn: 60 "Children Of The Heavenly Father"

Prayer

Special Music: Piano Solo by Tania Olson, "You Lift Me Up On Eagle's Wings"

Offering:

Offertory: Guitar Solo by David Erickson

Special Music: Tania Olson

Choruses: 43 "Great Is The Lord"

36 "Surely The Presence Of The Lord"

Special Music: Barb Jacobson, "Beulah Land"

Sermon: "A Winsome Invitation"

Hymn: 188 "Come Unto Me"

8/15/04

Prelude: Annelisse Nelson, Kari Nelson, Chris Hamness, Kay Prothero and Mike Lorenson

Hymn: 53 "Come Thou Almighty God"

Scripture: Hosea 7:1-10

Hymn: 314 "Hiding in Thee"

Prayer

Special Music: Dale Warne, "I'll Talk To The Father For You"

Offering

Offertory: Laura Vagle

Special Music: Dale Warne, "I'm Not Giving Up"

Choruses: 5 "Sing Of His Love"

6 "I Just Came To Praise The Lord"

Sermon: "Are You Half Baked"

Hymn: "I Would Be Like Jesus"

7:00p.m Youth Service

8/22/04

Prelude: Pam Erickson and son David

Hymn: 183 "I Will Sing The Wonderous Story"

Scripture: I Samuel 30:1-6

Hymn: 192 "My Faith Looks Up To Thee"

Prayer

Special Music: Bill Forbister, "One Day At A Time" & "These Hands"

Offering

Offertory: Amber Joel

Special Music: Bill Forbister and granddaughter, Chelsey Haugen, "Deep In My Heart" and "Jesus Hold My Hand"

Choruses: 183 "Joyfully"

178 "Jesus I Give Myself To You"

Sermon: "Encouraging Yourself"

Hymn: 195 "Faith Is The Victory"

8/29/04

Prelude

Sunday School Promotion

Hymn: 418 "True Hearted Whole Hearted"

Scripture: Acts 4:13-23

Hymn: 415 "Soldiers of Christ Arise"

Prayer

Special Music: Rhonda Rothenberger

Offering

Offertory: Karen Crudden

Special Music: Rhonda

Sermon: "Propped Up Christians"

Hymn: 412 "Stand Up For Jesus"



## Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

Leader: Pastor Bob Ludwig

Study: "RUNNING with the GIANTS" by John C. Maxwell

### Abraham

Learning to Trust God's character

God Always Does the Right Thing, Even if it Takes a Long Time.

When much time passes between when God promises something and when he fulfills it we often act like small children who can't wait for Christmas. We don't like waiting and we fear we have been forgotten. It is easy to see why Abraham got impatient.

When God sent him out of Ur of the Chaldeans, He promised him that he would possess the land of Canaan, he would have many descendant, and his offspring would become a great nation. The fulfillment of that promise would bring him great joy. But after many years (maybe 10) God still hadn't delivered on his promise. God needed to reassure him. *"After these things the word of the Lord came to Abraham in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abraham, I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." Then he brought him outside and said, "Look toward the heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them...So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord, and he accounted it to him for righteousness.* Gen. 15:1, 5-6

God's ways and his sense of time-are not like ours. Even though it may seem like a long time to us, God always does what is right, and He always comes through. Abraham wants us to remember that. Why did God wait so long to fulfill the promise to Abraham? God wanted Abraham's total trust. Our minds can not conceive all the things God is capable of doing. In



the words of God to Abraham best sum up his ability: *"Is anything too hard for the Lord?"* Gen. 18:14 The answer is no-there is nothing God can't do.

Have you ever questioned God? Abraham did. When God told him that Sodom would be destroyed he wondered how could God do such a thing. He asked God, *"Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?"* Gen.

18:23 Abraham began to negotiate with God-have you ever done that? God is righteous, as well as right. He honored Abraham's request and the few righteous people who lived in Sodom were saved. In the end Abraham provided the answer to his own question, *"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"* Gen 18:25 God is a righteous judge. Just as he preserved the innocent in Sodom, He will take care of you and me.

God always does the right thing even if we don't understand. The greatest test for Abraham came when God asked him to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac. By this time Abraham didn't question or doubt. He simply got up early and set out to do what he'd been asked to do. He didn't have to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham had learned the secret of walking with God. Trust and obey. God had been faithful to every promise He had made, so Abraham trusted his character, He finally understood, that we should not try to "understand" God, until we have first obeyed Him. But you want to be sure it is God speaking to you.

Two Important Truths

1. Perfection is not a prerequisite for God to begin His work in our lives.
2. God's blessings are never earned

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### Abraham's Prayer for Us

Lord,

*I ask that You help my friends have patience when it seems like a long time since they have heard from you. Help them...to be obedient when your leading seems so strange, to ask questions when they do not understand, to trust you when they do not find answers, because, God, You always do the right thing.*

Amen

*Abraham was an ordinary man. That drives home the point that when we trust God, He can make ordinary into extraordinary!*

### Abraham's Discussion Guide

*And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched for this hand and took the knife to slay his son. Gen 22:9-10*

#### Question for Abraham:

How could you have been called a "friend of God" and still had all of your struggles? He was human-flesh and blood.

**Personal Reflection:** In what areas do you struggle the most with God? Waiting on Him to fulfill His promises? Obeying Him when His way seems absurd? Questioning Him? Understanding Him?

**Question for Abraham:** Why did you so often to provide a way, when God did not wish to? That is human nature.

**Personal Reflection:** What areas do you try to "fix" or "pull off" when God seems to slow?

**Question for Abraham:** Were you amazed how far you negotiated with God about Lot's safety? Love and concern for Lot were Abraham's motive.

**Personal Reflection:** Have you ever negotiated with God? How did it turn out?

**Question for Abraham:** How did you feel as a father when you placed Isaac on the altar? Do we love God more than our kids? God de-

mands first place.

**Personal Reflection:** What is the most difficult thing in your life that you must surrender to God? Have you done it yet?

**Question for Abraham:** When you look back at all the blessings you received from God, how did you respond? How do we respond? We should be grateful, humble and indebted to God.

#### Personal Reflection:

When you look at all of God's blessings on your life, how do you respond?

**Remember: God always does the right thing!**

Some key points and trials in Abraham's life:

- He left his family and country
- God promised to bless him and his descendants
- Abraham lived through a famine
- He feared Pharaoh and lied to him
- He experienced family conflict-he and Lot separated
- When Lot was kidnapped he pursued the kidnapper and fought to rescue him.
- He still had no son

#### Everything I need to know I learned from Noah's Ark

1. Don't miss the boat
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something very big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your own future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float awhile.
10. Remember the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

