

Lutheran Church of the Master
 580 Kuhn Road, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188
 Curt Gerald, Interim Pastor
 February 28, 2010
 Second Sunday in Lent
 "It's a wRAP!"

Genesis 12:1-11 (New International Version)

Genesis 12

The Call of Abram

¹ The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.

² "I will make you into a great nation
 and I will bless you;
 I will make your name great,
 and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you,
 and whoever curses you I will curse;
 and all peoples on earth
 will be blessed through you."

⁴ So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring ^[a] I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

⁸ From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. ⁹ Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

Luke 10 (New International Version)

Jesus Sends Out the Seventytwo

¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy-two ^[a] others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

I checked out a phrase on the Internet this week ... it is a familiar phrase ... often associated with the film industry ... when the filming is completed, I guess the director on the set says "it's a wrap." My online source said that this phrase simply means: "this is successfully completed."

Well, folks, that is what we celebrate every time we enter this sanctuary ... I guess we could say that it means that same thing that Jesus said on the cross when he said: TETELESTAI - IT IS FINISHED ... could also mean: "it is successfully completed" ... so, from the cross, Jesus is saying: "It is successfully completed."

Well, today we also want to use this phrase in reference to this (for some) all too brief but powerful time that Jim has shared with this congregation.

So Jim ... IT'S A WRAP ... which refers both to your ministry and to this message

START RHYTHM

... because it's a wRap too ... in 4/4 time!

So ... I need a little help /
 from MiCHAEL on the keys ...
 And I'll need a little help /
 from YOU PEOPLE, if you please.

The rhythm is the met-ro-nome /
 it's gonna keep the beat ...
 Put your hands together /
 if you wanna, move your feet!

I raise my hand ... YES you'll say /
 make it good and loud ...
 My hand goes down ... shout out NO /
 a really noisy crowd.

BREAK YES NO YES NO

This wandering Aramean /
 ... Abram was his name,
 Starts us on our journey /
 ... he said a CALLING CAME.

I wonder why God called him? /
We don't have a clue!
Its just that God had chosen him /
to do what God would do.

"He left as God had told him." /
Was it really quite that way?
"I got a call ... so pack it all /
we're out of here today?"

Sarai must have had some questions /
For her Abram that day...
Like: "Who" said "what?" "Why go now?"
"You don't know the way!"

Calls are always like that /
... never crystal clear ...
... uncertainty ... discomfort /
Friendships ... and a little fear.

One moment you are certain /
And you're ready to say YES ...
And then something happens /
... then NO is your best guess.

BREAK

So Abram went ... praise be to God /
 To wherever God would lead.
At seventy-five ... quite a trip /
 ... God providing every need.

But ever since that early trip /
 Abram has been known
As the father of the nation /
 From whom 3 great faiths have grown.

And all because he said YES /
 When NO would have come with ease!
He models for us the way of our faith /
 ... we should fall down on our knees!

BREAK

A couple thousand years go by /
 ... Jesus is with 72
men and women, disciples of his /
 ... looking for something to do.

He sends them out ... two by two /
He tells them all ... "get going!"
We don't know what he told them to do/
He didn't spend a lot of time ... showing.

There's the world ... here's my love /
Bring them together some how ...
Don't stand around ... there's too much to do /
I'm sending you ... NOW!

They could have said "NO" ... they could have refused /
... that would have been very bad!
Thank God they said "YES" ... thank God they all went /
Thank God for each girl, and lad!

BREAK

So now, here we are ... Jim is the one /
Who's been called to a new ministry place.
To work with new folks ...a new congregation
That wants to proclaim God's grace.

An hour away there is a group today /
That can't wait for Jim Holl-en-don-er ...
To arrive and begin a new ministry and then
To pray and give God the honor.

Meanwhile here ... our feelings are mixed /
Joyful and sad we feel.
We'd like to say "NO" ... please Jim don't go /
But ... when God is a part of the deal

We won't oppose what God cooked up /
We don't see as God sees.
So instead we'll say "YES" ... and we'll gather to bless /
as you're down on your knees.

It is often ... only a servant /
Who understands what it means to be SENT ...
The master says go here or do that ...
A good servant is the one who went!

Only the one doing the sending /
Can see the road up ahead.
The servant's job is to follow the master /
... everything thought, uttered, said.

So as you go to a new congregation /
The whole church is watching you.
On behalf of Lutheran Church of the Master /
I speak these words of wisdom to you.

"It's a wrap" ... successfully completed ...
TETELESTAI ... it's finished ... I'll say.
"It's a RAP" ... this sermon is over ...
So now ... let's stand up and pray!

This meditation is a celebration of team ministry!

It was a privilege to work with the pastoral team formed by Pat, Merridee, Michael, and Jim.

Special thanks to Michael Benshish without whose rhythm this message would have been only a poem.

Pastor Curt Gerald
Sunday, February 28, 2010

