



Dilemmas and Decisions

Bible Study

[Please provide: Bibles and copies of the Bible study for attendees.]

Most of us change homes multiple times in our lives. We start with our first move from our parents' house, whether we are going to college, getting married, or starting our first career. Then there may be a transfer to another town, a need for a bigger home, downsizing empty-nesters, or the addition of a vacation home in our future. Whatever the case, moves are always a bit frantic.

There are things to eliminate (sell, toss, or give away), things to pack (ship, carry, or delegate to the professionals), arrangements to be made with utilities and other incidentals (pets, school records, or changing banks). Timelines are enforced. Have you sold your house? Have you found a new one? Does it include everything on your wish list while still in your price range?

Dilemmas and decisions are flung at us faster than a major league baseball. We can choose to duck or swing. Hiding does no good. So, we step up to the plate and bat at each situation the best we can, hoping the Lord has everything under control for us because we are sure we do not.

These dilemmas are not new. We are not the first ones to have to pack and move into the unknown. Read about Abram's move in Genesis 12:1-9. Most of us do not venture very far from home without a GPS to help guide us. We would not want to be in Abram's sandals.

Can you imagine leaving your home and not even having an exact destination in mind? Where does the Lord tell Abram he is going in verse 1?

But God promises Abram that he will be blessed. In fact, He stresses that to Abram multiple times. How many times is a form of the word "bless" used in verses 2 and 3? What was the blessing? See Luke 1:73-79. (The salvation of mankind)

If you have had the experience of a stressful move, how many people did you move? How many people do you think Abram was moving? (verses 4-5) Remember "all they had acquired" would include servants, laborers, children, and possibly relatives other than the named Lot. Without modern conveniences, this would be quite an undertaking.

Abram stops at the *oak of Moreh* in verse 6. In Hebrew, *Moreh* means teacher. What happens there (verse 7)? When we are in the middle of a tremendous undertaking, do we stop to listen to God and worship Him? How might that change things?

Abram continues on to the hill country east of Bethel (verse 8) and builds another altar. Bethel means house of God. Later, who else encounters God at Bethel? See Genesis 28:18-22. What is his promise to God?

But Abram was still not to his destination. In verse 9, where is he heading?

Abraham (earlier known as Abram) travels most of his life. He begins in “Ur of the Chaldeans” (Genesis 11:28, 31), migrates to Haran (Genesis 11:27-32), is called to Canaan (discussed above), sojourns to Egypt during the famine (Genesis 12:9-20), returns to Canaan (Genesis 13), nearly sacrifices Isaac at Moriah which is possibly current day Jerusalem (Genesis 22) , and continues until his burial near Mamre (Genesis 25:9-10).

Now, I grew up moving every couple of years, but this is still a lengthy travel itinerary before motorization. Abraham actually never owned any of the land on which he lived and purchased his burial place from the locals. Abraham knew his final resting place was in heaven and he was only passing through this world.

Abraham’s life journey has lessons for us today. When we are too busy with our hectic itineraries to spend time with God, what should we do? Read the following:

Acts 17:26-28
Proverbs 15:22-25
Colossians 3:2
Hebrew 11:8-11

It does not help to worry over the dilemmas that are thrown our way. I know that is easier said than done. But trusting in the Lord rather than relying on our own understanding is a biblical calling. Have faith, seek wise counsel, and move forward with the plans the Lord has made for you.

May he grant you your heart’s desire and fulfill all your plans! May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners! May the Lord fulfill all your petitions! Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God
(Psalm 20:4-7).

Prayer: Lord, sometimes I feel like I am traveling in circles with no guidance system pointing the way. Help me seek Your way, Lord, for my life, so that my destination is always in the arms of Jesus. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Dilemmas and Decisions
Written by Terri Bentley, Meridian, Idaho
Published by Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, 2015