

Today we had a special treat of hearing the entire story of Abraham told by ten people from the First Presbyterian Church Sunday morning Sunday School class. Thank you to all our storytellers. Hearing the whole story, we are impacted by the lifestyle of this disciple. As God's disciple, his life was distinctive. Abraham started as one man who believed God's call, who believed the promises; and here we are, nearly 4,000 years later, Abraham's offspring – millions of us over the course of time.

What commitments do you want to make because of Abraham's story? What has engaged you over the last three months? We've learned that living by faith is a growing process, haven't we? Let's look at the road of faith:

### **THE LIFE OF GOD'S DISCIPLE**

- Believes the call
- Gives generously
- Risks victory
- Tithes
- Sometimes sins
- Prays boldly
- Receives Miracles
- Commits all
- Gains the promises

God calls believers to live life in this way. But God doesn't just leave us out there all alone. Certainly within the life of faith, God acts. God works. A relationship with God is a two-part relationship.

### **GOD'S PART**

- Calls us
- Gives possessions
- Gives victory over enemies
- Receives tithes
- Redeems sin
- Responds to prayer
- Does the impossible
- Provides what He demands
- Blesses the world through us

When we live a lifestyle of faith, it's contagious. A life of faith impacts the lives of others around us, our family; friends and people in the neighborhood. Why? Because someone who centers their life on God invites God to work, and when God works, amazing miracles happen. Let me tell you such a story.

This story involves a 10-year-old boy named Jerrod and it happened last Christmas in Keller. Jerrod's school counselor knew of a custodian who worked in his elementary school who had terminal cancer. She had two special needs children and was unable to provide them any sort of Christmas. Because she worked in Jarrod's school, this counselor asked all the kids in the school to bring their pennies for a fundraiser for Christmas for the family.

So Jerrod came downstairs the next morning with \$42.00 of savings – all that he had – to take to school for this family. He felt God wanted him to give it all. He asked his mother if she would give something too. She only had \$20 but gladly gave it to him. Jerrod's gift so touched her that she thought about it for days, and she began telling her clients about it. That year she got \$900 in tips, a huge year – she never got that much. People who normally gave her \$20 gave her \$50, and so on, so she gave that money to the fund also.

One day one of the clients she had told called her and asked for the counselor's name. Jerrod's gift had so impacted him that he wanted to give the family \$5,000. It was Christmas Eve. He wanted to get the money to the family that day. But how would they do it? School was out for break. It would have been next to impossible to find the counselor.

In the meantime, the radio station KLTU was broadcasting in the vicinity. The counselor was listening to the radio and drove to the location to share on the radio about this family. That client was listening also and heard her tell the story. Recognizing it, he was able to connect with the counselor. The two of them went over together to the woman's house at 4:00 PM to take the money.

That story goes on because a friend of the man who gave the \$5,000 owned a funeral home, and he offered to help the woman with her funeral arrangements.

You see, a life of faith involves following the call, taking a risk, being generous; and committing all. It doesn't matter whether you are 10 years old, or 70 years old. And, when we act in faith putting our lives in the hands of God, we experience this weaving of people and miracles that bless ourselves and others in astounding ways.

What commitments do you want to make? We are the family of faith and God calls. Let's bow in prayer and consider our response.