Amen. Amen. Good to see you this morning.
If you've got your Bibles, turn with me, if you would,
to the book of Genesis, chapter 12.
The book of Genesis, chapter 12.
Good to see everyone here today.
A little quick illustration before I read the passage on my heart.
There's just 20 verses in this 12th chapter.
And we're going to read all of those.
I imagine most of y'all are familiar with what a beaver trap looks like.
It's, I don't know my shapes.
Rectangle.
Rectangle shape thing there, and it's kind of spring loaded,
and it's got these little winged things that stick off on the side.
I've seen them in places before.
I've looked at them.
But I don't know how to use one.
I like to keep my appendages, and I don't mess with things like that.
But that was as of Friday.
I spent some time with Ricky, and he said, I've got to go sit in my beaver trap.
And he said, you want to go down there with me and help me?
I said, yeah, I'll go with you.
And so we went down there, and he's got this trap,
and he says, the preacher, I need you to do this.
You know, he's telling me what he's going to do.
I said, look.
I said, you're going to have to show me what, you've got to show me what to do.
And he says, here, so grab this tool.
You squeeze this thing with your hand.
Don't let this go.
And he's fiddling around.
He lines things up, and he's got to get his stakes.
And so we get this thing put together, and he heads off down this bank.
What, 78-year-old Ricky headed down the bank, and I'm coming right behind him.
I end up on my back.
But Ricky finds the beaver slide, and he sets us there,
and he puts these sticks up, and he gets it set there.
And so I'm watching all this, and he finds some sticks
and limbs, and he sort of camouflages the thing.
And they said, all right, we're good to go.
Lo and behold, next morning, I wake up, and Ricky's gone,
and he's gone there to check the beaver trap,
and he comes back with this big old fat beaver about as wide as this desk,
and said, Preacher, what are you talking about?
He could have told me how to do that,
and I promise you I never could have done it.
But I observed, I watched what he did,
and I saw the end result.
It was successful.
Brother Ricky knows how to set a beaver trap and catch a beaver.
So I learned something by observing what took place, kind of hands-on training.

I think I could have gone the rest of my life and made
it just fine without knowing how to set a beaver trap.
But folks, there's things we've got to know.
We have to know the truth about God.
And the best way to know the truth about God.
Instructions are helpful.
Someone can tell you.
But the best way is through observation
and looking at the Word of God
and how God has revealed Himself and how God works and particularly in His dealing,
in His revealing of Himself to mankind.
Genesis chapter 12.
I'm going to begin reading here in verse number 1.
The book of Genesis names,
the name Genesis means beginning or origin.
And in this book, we get the beginnings of seeing God work
in men's lives in creation.
But here in chapter 12,
the Bible says,
Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country,
from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, and to the land that I will show
thee.
And I will make of thee a great nation,
and I will bless thee, and make thy name great,
and thou shalt be a blessing.
And I will bless them that bless thee,
and curse him that curseth thee.
And in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.
So Abram departed,
and his Lord had spoken unto him,
and Lot went with him.
And Abram was 75 years old when he departed out of Haran.
And Abram took Sarah, his wife, and Lot, his brother's son,
and all their substance that they had gathered,
and all the souls that they had gotten in Haran.
And they went forth to go into the land of Canaan.
And into the land of Canaan they came.
And Abram passed through the land into the place of Sikkim,
into the plain of Morah.
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 built he an altar unto the Lord
who appeared unto him.
And he moved from thence to a mountain on
the east side of Bethel and pitched his tent,
having Bethel on the west and high on the east.
And there he built an altar unto the Lord
and called upon the name of the Lord.
Verse 9, it says, And Abram journeyed going on still toward the south.

And there was a famine in the land.
And Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there,
for the famine was grievous in the land.
And it came to pass when he was come near into Egypt
that he said unto Sarah, his wife, Behold now,
I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon.
Therefore it shall come to pass when the Egyptians shall see thee,
that thou shalt say, This is his wife,
and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.
Say, I pray thee, that thou art my sister,
that it may be well with me for thy sake, and my soul shall live because of thee.
And it came to pass that when Abram was coming to Egypt,
the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair.
The princess also of Pharaoh saw her
and commended her before Pharaoh.
And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.
And he had treated Abram well for her sake,
and he had sheep and oxen,
and he asses and men servants and maid servants,
and she asses and camels.
Verse 17, it says,
And the Lord plagued Pharaoh
and his house with great plagues because of Sarah, Abram's wife.
And Pharaoh called to Abram and said, What is it thou hast done unto me?
Why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?
Wherefore, why sayest thou,
she is my sister?
So I might have taken her to me, to wife.
Now therefore, behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way.
Lastly, in verse 20,
And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him,
and they sent him away and his wife
and all that he had.
And tonight, this morning, I want to share
on the subject of the records of God and men
and spend a little time on God and Abram.
Let's pray.
Lord, we thank you for this gift of this day.
What an opportunity to be in your house,
to enter into your sanctuary.
God, I pray today that we might,
Lord, open our minds,
Lord, give ourselves to the tenderness to your work.
Lord, you're an unchanging God.
You're a good God.
Lord, of all the things that we can owe in this world,
there's nothing more urgent, needful,
greater than a knowledge of who you are.
Lord, not that so it might fill our minds,
Lord, that we in turn might respond to you

in a manner that is worthy of you.
Lord, help me today to share your word
in a manner that is right in your eyes.
Lord, we trust you with the outcome.
Lord, in Jesus' sweet name we pray.
Amen.
Amen.
Last Sunday morning we was in Genesis chapter 6
and looked at that familiar passage of the Lord.
And Noah, the Bible says in Genesis chapter 6,
And it repented the Lord that he had made men
on the earth and it greeted him at his heart.
And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created
from the face of the earth, both man and beast
and the creeping thing and the founts of the air.
For it repenteth me that I have made them,
but Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.
What do we learn about God from this passage of Scripture?
We see, first of all, that God was grieved.
God is grieved by sin.
It wounded him.
It wasn't just an offense to him.
It broke the perfect heart of love.
It broke the heart of God.
When he looked down and he saw
this world that he was made had become polluted by sin.
The men who had inhabited it had been corrupted by sin.
It moved and broke the heart of God.
It did and it does.
Not only is God grieved by sin,
we find here that God judges sin.
In a record, in an event that had never happened before
and hasn't happened since,
God's judgment fell upon the earth.
Every living thing that had the breath of life in it died.
God destroyed this entire thing.
And folks, it's not just that God judged sin.
God judges sin.
The Bible tells us in the book of Romans,
for the wrath of God is revealed
against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.
That God gives man over.
He gives them over.
He gave them up.
It's not that God once did something in the past.
God is doing something in the present.
And we find out throughout Scripture
that God will judge sin in the future.
The judgment of God is real.
Sin grieves the heart of God.

But we also find that God is a God that gives grace.
It said, Noah found grace in the eyes of God.
Noah was a righteous man, but he wasn't a guiltless man.
He wasn't an innocent man.
Noah's only hope was the grace of God in his life.
Folks, that is our only hope.
Not just to make it in this life, but to make it in the next life.
It's a God that sees sin,
that's grieved by sin,
judges sin, judges sin, will judge sin,
is that we embrace His grace in our life.
That's what I know about God from the book of Noah.
We looked at the book of Bible last Sunday night.
Book of Bible, the story of Bible in Genesis.
These self-ruled, rebellious,
prideful men decided we're going to make us a tower that reaches up to the heavens.
Not so that I might reach God,
but they was filled with exalting themselves.
We know that God doesn't always intervene in the
acts of foolish men, but in this case He did.
God said, let us go down.
God said, let us go down.
God come down, He confounded the thing, He confused the thing,
He halted the plans, and He scattered them upon the face of the earth.
It really grabbed me as I studied the book of Bible.
God has not stopped me from doing everything,
wicked thing that I've done in my life, but can I tell you the reason
none of us have done as much damage as we could have done
and should have done
is due to the intervening grace of God in our lives.
A whole lot worse.
But this morning,
I want us to begin,
as long as the Lord will keep us here,
I want to begin to look a bit at the life of God and Abram.
There's some things that we find throughout this man's life,
particularly in this chapter.
And folks, it really grabbed me as they were singing that song this morning,
that picture of this wayfaring pilgrim or the wayfaring stranger.
We find that in the life of Abram.
And we know as believers that this world is not our home.
We're here but for a short time.
That we are truly just passing through and this life is merely but a vapor.
But God intends for me while I'm in this vapor of life
to live a life that brings glory and honor to Him.
God's got a purpose for me
while I'm in this vapor.
The way I respond to Him,
the way I worship Him, the way I obey Him.
If you don't know Him, come into Him.

And we find so much about this God
and this is why we have it.
It's so that I might respond rightly to this God.
Here's what I thought about that beaver trap.
Ricky, I can go now and I can set one.
Why does God tell us
what He tells us about Himself?
Why does God reveal, Nicky, what He reveals about Himself?
Why does God say, Nicky, your sin grieves me at my heart
and if you walk in it,
I will judge you.
Why does He tell you that?
So you will respond rightly to this God.
Not so that I know.
Rhonda, why does He say about His grace?
So you'll fling yourself upon the grace of God.
Why does He want to get self-exaltation?
Because God says, I'll bring that man down.
And the same thing with the life of Abraham.
We find some things about the Lord and I promise you,
they will do us good
because this is an unchanging God.
Number one, God is a God of blessing.
God is a God of blessing.
Genesis chapter 12, verse number one.
The Bible says,
Now the Lord has said unto Abram,
Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred
and from thy father's house
and to the land that I will show thee.
And I will make of thee a great nation.
And I will bless thee
and make thy name great and thou shalt be a blessing.
And I will bless them that bless thee
and curse him that curseth thee.
And in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.
Now let's get this right.
Folks, to understand scripture correctly,
to interpret it correctly,
we must view all of this in context.
We need to see it in its setting.
We need to understand what all this is about.
Folks, this is far more about what the Lord is going to do through Abram
than what the Lord is going to do for Abram.
Now Abram is going to be blessed because of what God is going to do for him.
But it's about what God is going to do through him.
This is way bigger than Abram's family.
But the Lord is telling Abram
that through him,
he is going to create a literal nation,

a literal country.
But even more importantly,
through Abram,
a spiritual nation was going to be born.
That through Abram,
God himself was going to send the Messiah.
He was going to send the Savior.
He was going to send the King.
He was going to send the sacrifice.
That he was going to use this man
as a blessing,
a means of blessing
to the entire world.
But that word blessing,
blessing, blessing,
grabbed me.
God says,
I will bless you.
You will be a blessing.
Through you, all the families of the world
will be blessed.
That this God is a God.
Not what God?
Not the God of the Old Testament.
I'm talking about the God of September the 13th, 2026, friend,
is a God of tremendous and great blessing.
Now let's get this correct on.
Folks, the Lord is far more concerned
about my holiness than He is my happiness.
God is far more concerned about me reverencing Him
than He is rewarding me.
But what I know about God,
He is a good God
who longs to bless
those that fear Him.
Now I'm not talking about this false prosperity
gospel of health and wealth and everybody's just
in the best condition and you got every car that you want to have
and you got plenty of money in the bank
and if you'll just put $10 here,
you'll get $50 back
and blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.
That's not what I'm talking about.
Those are temporal things.
I'm talking about God is a God of physical blessing but God is a God
of spiritual blessing.
That this great God in heaven wants to lead me beside the still waters.
This great God in heaven
wants to restore my soul.
This great God in heaven

wants me to abide
in the presence of His holy hill.
This great God in heaven wants me to have peace of my mind,
peace of my soul,
peace of my heart.
This great God in heaven
wants me to experience the joy of the Lord.
This great God in heaven
wants me to experience
the glory of the promised land which is a life that walks in communion with God
and experience the blessings of God.
God is a,
He's not someone to fear
and run away from.
He's a God that needs to be reverenced.
He's a God that needs to be worshipped and honored.
But the God in heaven is a song that came out many years ago.
He's a good, good father.
He's a good father.
Can't we all
just look at our life
apart from this verse of scripture.
There's not an individual here today
that hasn't been blessed manifold,
manifold,
manifold
multiple times over.
Now everybody in here
has gone through things.
Everybody in here
has dealt through things.
But even if I didn't have the Bible,
I've got all I did before I come out today.
I looked at the pictures of my study and said, God, you're a God of blessing.
You're a God of blessing.
I can look out today,
Ms. Louise,
God is a God who has blessed you.
Because friends, that's who God is.
See,
if we're going to respond rightly to God,
we got,
I may say this a hundred times over the next two weeks, two months, I don't know.
I heard a preacher say this many, many years ago.
A God formed in the heart
of fallen man can in no way be accurate
to who God truly is.
Everybody's got the idea of what God's like.
Well, my God wouldn't do this, my God wouldn't do that.
The God that I think of does this, do that.

Can we take all that and let's just flush it down the toilet?
It doesn't matter what I think about God, it doesn't matter what you think about God.
What it matters is how God has revealed himself in scripture.
And God says,
I spoke this entire thing into existence through the word of my power in six days.
I just said,
let there be and there was.
I'm a God
who created man and I gave him an opportunity.
He created Adam and Eve and says,
Adam,
Tammy,
Ronnie,
you can walk in my way or you can go your own way, but know that if you do,
there's death at the door in that destination.
God is grieved by sin.
God judges sin.
God sends grace.
God intervenes and he acts in man's life.
But here's what I know about God.
He's good.
He's a God of blessing.
Abram, I'm going to do you good.
You're going to be blessed and through you I want to bless other people.
But that's not all that there is to God.
He's a God
who calls us out
and requires us to follow.
Look at verse number one again.
The Lord had said unto Abram,
Get thee out of thy country
and from thy kindred
and from thy father's house unto the land that I will show thee.
Verse four says, So Abram departed
as the Lord had spoken unto him
and Lot went with him
and Abram was 75 years old when he departed
out of Haran.
I want you to understand what's going on here.
Folks, God isn't requesting anything.
God's commanding.
We know the difference in that.
The great invitation is not an invitation.
The great invitation is a command.
God's telling Abram,
Get out.
Leave everything that you know.
Leave everything that you're comfortable with.
You leave your home because I'm a God that's good.

I'm a God
that's got a plan.
I'm a God that's going to bless you.
I'm a God that's going to bless this world
because I'm going to do something to this mere mortal man
because that's who I am.
I've seen sin.
I've judged sin but I'm bigger than sin.
So I'm going to work through you Abram
but here's what you've got to do.
You've got to leave
and you've got to come
and you've got to follow me.
By the way,
y'all notice Abram was 75 years old when this occurred.
You don't get to retire out of this thing.
Now Abram's call
was unique.
God's path for him
was Abram's alone.
But can I tell us all this morning,
folks, the call to come out
and the call to follow
is universal
and mandatory for all who will come
after the Lord.
This is who God is.
The call to come out
and the call to follow,
it isn't a suggestion,
it isn't a request,
it is mandatory and universal for all who will come after the Lord.
You say, preacher,
why is that so important?
Because there'll be no God of blessing if we fail to respond to the God
who calls us out and the God who requires us to follow.
Now sadly,
there's been a false message
that's been preached that somehow you can have one without the other.
But the fact is, folks, this simply isn't true.
I'm not trying
to complicate things,
I'm just simply trying to simplify spiritual things,
God things,
life changing,
soul saving things.
That there is no redemption
apart from a penance.
There's not.
That spiritual fruit is the evidence of saving faith.

But here's the thing,
folks,
a man that stays where he is,
as he is,
has never seen,
met,
nor been changed
by the God of glory.
Here's how we're going to know that Abraham believed.
Here's how we know that Abraham's going to receive the blessing.
That God said, Ted,
listen,
I'm not just going to swoop in there and do all of this stuff.
You've got to leave.
You've got to follow.
And it's only in the coming,
it's only in the following that the blessing is going to occur in our lives.
He said, Preacher, I thought grace is unmerited favor.
It is unmerited favor.
What does unmerited mean?
Undeserved.
Abraham did nothing,
was nothing to deserve anything that God was going to do in his life.
Your preacher is nothing,
deserves nothing
for what God has done
and I believe will do in my life.
But here's what I know for a fact,
that God's a good God
and God is a blessing.
And God has called me to come out and God has called me to follow Him.
And if I refuse to,
there will be no blessing in my life.
See, you can't separate
these two things.
They all flow together.
Here's the blessing.
Folks, if we follow the command of God,
the blessing of God
will deliver.
I can't tell you how many
I've got enough to make.
I've made enough mistakes to cover my own life.
But how many people, church people I've sat with,
particularly married couples, not just young married couples.
Some of y'all have gone through the pain of divorce.
Some of you have seen your kids
outside the will of God.
But let's just look at our own lives.
You know,

I have a gift, we have a gift of complicating
the most simple things.
Can I tell you what happens in every one of those cases?
Someone
is not coming out and following the God of goodness and
blessing and mercy the way that God has called them to do.
We say,
why is this happening?
Why is this here?
Why is there disarray?
Why is there dysfunction?
Why is there lack of peace?
Why is there lack of joy?
Why is there discontentment?
Why are all these things going in my life?
Because it's a simple friend.
God will do those things
but He only does them in response to a man as God.
I will go,
I don't know where you're sending me.
I'll go,
I don't know where I'm going.
But I know that you're a good God
that loves me
and I'm going to trust you
and I'm going to mind you
and it's at that point,
friend, that the blessings begin to come.
God is a God of blessing.
God calls us out
and requires us to follow.
Here's something that love.
Look here.
God is long-suffering
in our stumbles.
Look at verse 9.
The Bible says that Abram journeyed going on still toward the south and there was
a famine in the land and Abram went down into Egypt
to join there for the famine was grievous in the land
and it came to pass when he was come near to enter into Egypt that he said
unto Sarah his wife,
Behold now, I know that there are a fair woman to look upon.
Therefore it shall come to pass when the Egyptians shall see thee
that thou shalt say this is his wife
and they will kill me but they will save thee alive.
Say I pray thee thou art my sister that it may be
well with me for thy sake and my soul shall live
because of thee.
Are y'all reading what's happening?
Friend, this is a big stumble.

This is a big,
big stumble
and we'll continue to look at the life of Abraham and we'll find out
this ain't the last stumble that occurs in this man's life.
Can I give you two reasons why he stumbled?
Number one,
he went to a place that he never should have went and when he arrived there
he did things he never should have done.
Whenever we find in Scripture normally where a person goes down somewhere,
it ain't good.
I believe Samson went down to Timna and Jonah went down to I think Joppa or
wherever.
See,
physically,
physically,
he went somewhere he shouldn't have been and when
he arrived he did things he never should have done.
But it's more than
just the physical aspect.
It's the mental aspect.
It's the spiritual aspect.
See, we've got to take all this stuff together because some of us got really
nervous.
The Lord calls me,
He commands me to come out and requires us to follow Him.
Yes, He does and I will not water it down.
Jesus said,
whosoever
will come out to me
let him deny himself take up his cross and follow me.
Folks,
that's what it is.
And if we refuse to do that we will not meet,
not know,
not be saved by,
not be changed by this great God of blessing.
But I also want us to realize that this great God
is long suffering
and our stumbling
when we do come out
and we do follow
and we mess it up big time.
Why did He mess it up big time?
Again,
He went somewhere He shouldn't have went and when
He arrived He did something He shouldn't have done.
And can I tell you the truth?
When we do the same, we'll do the same.
When we do the same,
we'll do the same.

When we allow our minds
and our unforgiveness
and our resentment,
we allow these things
to take us to places that we shouldn't be.
We're going to do things we shouldn't have done.
That was one reason.
There's a second reason.
Here's what happened.
The God that called Him out
was no longer enough
to sustain Him and protect Him.
Because evidently God didn't know
there was going to be a famine.
That's sarcasm, by the way.
So what happens when that's our mentality?
That God has called us out.
God has called us to come.
Y'all, I've got to tell you a story real fast.
Y'all have all heard it 20 times.
I've got to tell you too.
Because this is real life stuff.
Real life stuff.
The first time I was going to come,
I met with these deacons over here on a Saturday night,
August the 21st, 2010.
We had a meeting with these guys.
I love preaching here.
I went back and told Mitch.
He said, how'd it go?
I said, it went horrible.
What do you mean it went horrible?
I said, them crazy people want me to come over here and preach all the time.
That means I'd have to quit my job.
I'd have to do all this.
I'd have to do all that.
I said, it didn't go good at all.
And finally my wife told me.
She said, listen,
if God's calling us to come,
we've got to go.
If he ain't, don't.
But can I tell you what the problem was?
As I was beginning to think that the same God who had saved me at 20 years old,
that the same God who called me to preach at 33 years old,
now I wasn't aware that this boy had bills and two kids and a home
and all these other things to take up.
I mean, he's big enough to save my soul,
but surely to God he can't sustain me because, well,
hey, there's a family in the land,

so I've got to go down to Egypt.
Can I get amen?
You've been there.
And when you get there and you go there, you say, but preacher,
I've come out and I'm following.
But those things
will kill our walk.
They'll kill our testimony.
These were really big deals now.
But can I tell you what God didn't do?
We're talking about who God is.
God did not forsake him.
Look.
Look at this passage of Scripture.
These are really,
really, really, really big deals.
But God didn't give up on him.
We've got disobedience.
We've got lack of faith.
Why didn't God just flush out?
I mean, he went and lied.
She ain't even my wife at all.
Notice how many times he said, look,
they're going to kill me, but they'll keep you.
Why don't you do this for me so that things will be well for me?
Boy, ain't we self-centered,
self-focused people?
Sarah,
just lie
and say you're my sister so that everything will be well with me.
Because y'all imagine.
Thank you.
Imagine doing that with them.
Fair enough time.
Do you know what didn't happen?
God didn't forsake you.
You say, preacher, why didn't God forsake you?
Y'all hold on to your hat right here.
Because friend, God was aware of the stumbles
before they ever occurred.
God was fully aware
exactly what Abram was going to do
before he even created him
in his mother's womb.
God was fully aware of what Abram was going
to do before he ever called him out of Haran.
God was fully aware
that he wouldn't walk exactly right.
He wouldn't do things the right way.
He'd make some bad decisions.

He'd make some good decisions.
He'd make some poor decisions.
He'd be worried about protecting his own skin.
He'd take matters
into his own hands instead of trusting the God that saved him.
Friend, that's mankind.
That is mankind.
That is mankind.
Do not use this as an excuse
for lackluster living.
You do not use this as an excuse for defense, for our defiance.
But I want you to know this, friend.
God knows Abram.
God knows me.
And God knows you.
And praise God.
Thank God.
He doesn't kill us.
He doesn't forsake us.
But he's long-suffering when we stumble
and fall flat of our face.
Hallelujah.
That's who God is.
He's a God of blessing, Dickie.
But he commands.
He commands.
Come out.
Follow me.
And as we follow
and as we walk.
Now listen,
if you don't have a desire to follow
or a desire to please,
friend, you haven't met the God of this Bible.
but if you have
and then you're following
and then you're going out,
it's Sister Peggy
trying to walk in his way.
Can I go ahead and give you some news?
You're going to fall again.
You're going to stumble again.
We're going to trip up again.
Man, I remember having to call my mom, my sister,
my sister,
my daughter
and my wife a few years ago.
I'm pastoring a church.
Don't let your minds go off too far.
But I'd made a decision that wasn't right and I did things

and I just said,
God said, look,
I'm sorry.
I need you to forgive me.
I'm not a hypocrite.
I'm not a fake.
But I'm full from perfect.
My God knows that already.
He knows it already.
But you're going to go on and tell Abraham a little later,
walk before me and be thou perfect.
But when I fail to be perfect,
this God's long suffering
and our stumbles.
Maybe you haven't come to God
because you've
failed to recognize
what a good
and blessing God this is.
Maybe you haven't come because you think you
can stay where you are and do what you want
and still be saved by this God and enter into heaven.
Can I tell you
that simply ain't true?
It ain't true.
But maybe you had no joy in your life, no contempt in your life because you've
fallen
so hard that this God couldn't possibly forgive you or use you again.
Well, here's a man who lied about his wild and white being his sister.
God will.
Let me share
one more last thing
about who this God is.
He is a God
who sovereignly
looks after his own.
Look at verse number 17.
The Bible says in verse 16,
and he treated Abram well for her sake
and he had sheep and oxen.
He asked as the men's servants and maid's servants and she asked as the camels.
In verse 17 it says,
and the Lord plagued Pharaoh in his house with great plagues because of Sarah,
Abram's wife.
And Pharaoh called Abram and said,
what is this that thou hast done unto me?
Why dost thou not tell me that she was thy wife?
Why sayest thou she is my sister?
So I might have taken her to my wife.
Now therefore,

behold thy wife, take her
and go thy way.
And Pharaoh commanded his men
concerning him
and they sent him away
and his wife
and all that he had.
Do y'all see this whole event?
Here's a 75-year-old man.
Hey, who's 75 and up?
Raise your hand.
75 and up.
Raise your hand.
I got a bunch of you.
Ricky, raise it high.
I know how old you are.
You're 78.
75 and up.
Come on, little ladies.
Raise your hand.
Y'all ladies, raise your hand, Miss Joyce.
I know it's cold.
Raise your hand.
You're over 75.
You can't retire.
You can't retire.
At 75,
come out and follow me.
What you've done so far,
fantastic,
but that ain't enough.
Got to keep going.
Got to keep going.
Why?
Because he's a God of blessing.
But you're going to stumble along the way.
And God is long-suffering.
But know this, friend.
God and his sovereign power,
looks after his own.
See this thing.
Abram's called out.
He goes,
stops and builds an altar to the Lord.
Calls upon the name of the Lord.
Life gets tough.
A famine comes.
He knows he's supposed to follow him,
but fear sets in.
He goes where he shouldn't go and he does what he shouldn't do.

He takes matters into his own hands.
He messes this entire thing up.
But God doesn't forsake him.
God doesn't kill him.
No, what God does is,
I'm still going to keep you.
Folks, there's a lot of people that get a lot of pleasure
in trying to trip up the preacher.
They're out there.
They're out there.
And I got really comfortable a long time ago
where there are things that I simply
don't understand.
And scripture actually says that hidden things belong to the Lord.
There are things that I can't understand and there are things that I can't explain.
But there are some things that this brother knows.
And one thing
that I know for sure,
Pharaoh didn't kill Abram
and he didn't keep Sarah.
You know why?
Because God had determined it
not to be so.
Because God was God
and God was still in control.
And that takes me to Romans chapter 8.
Rob writes this.
What shall we then say to these things?
If God be for us, who can be against us?
He that spared not his own son, but delivered him up for us all,
how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?
Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect?
It is God that justifies.
Who is he that condemneth?
It is Christ that died,
yea, rather, that is risen again.
Who is even at the right hand of God who also maketh intercession for us?
Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation,
or distress,
or persecution,
or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
As it is written,
for thy sake we are killed all the day long.
We are counted as sheep for the slaughter.
Nay, nay, nay.
In all things we are more than conquerors through him that loves us.
I love verse 38.
For I am persuaded

that neither death, nor life, nor angels,
nor principalities,
nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
nor height,
nor depth, nor any other creature
shall be able to separate us from the love of God
which is in Christ Jesus
my Lord.
What do I know about God from Abraham?
What do I know about God from the word?
What do I know about God from life?
It's the same thing you've got to know.
Friend, he's a good, good God.
He's a God of blessing.
He's a God of grace.
He's a God of mercy.
He's a God that commands us.
Deborah,
you come out and you follow me.
Can't stay where you are doing what you want to do.
You've got to come
and you've got to walk in my way.
And you are going to fall hard,
fast along the way.
But when you do, I'm going to keep you
because I'm long-suffering
and you are my child.
And no one knows this,
there ain't nothing
in this world,
nothing,
that's more powerful
than the power
of a sovereign God, not even Pharaoh himself.
out and if you'll come.
Friend, it's on my heart.
It is on my heart
to spend some time
looking at who God is.
Why, Blake?
So you'll respond to this God.
Brother Herschel, so you'll see this God.
Tammy,
so you'll trust this God.
New Bethel, so that we'll worship this God.
For those of you
that found so much, you've found so much,
so God couldn't use me anymore,
that you look at Abram and go,
oh yes, he can.

Because that's who God is.
Let's pray.
Heavenly Father, Lord, I thank you for your word.
I thank you that you are bigger
than our circumstances.
You are bigger
than our trials.
That your grace is greater than sin.
That your faithfulness is greater than our faithfulness.
But dear God, we've got to see who you are.
We've got to see the grace that is found in you.
We've got to see the judgment that is found in you.
We've got to see
the command
to come,
take up our cross
and follow you.
Lord, we've got to know
that there's grace that never leaves.
God, I pray today
in this invitation time
that you, the God of Abram,
would be the God of this church.
Have your way in this invitation time.
In Jesus' name I pray.
Amen.
Let's stand.
We'll serve it.