

The Cycle of Settling

June 8, 2021

Scripture: Genesis 11:31-12:1-5

Gen. 11:31

31 And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.

32 And the days of Terah were two hundred and five years: and Terah died in Haran.

Gen. 12:1-5

1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2 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:

3 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.

4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram *was* seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and 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.

Summary: Have you settled for the wrong things lately?

Have you found yourself sitting on your lazy boy of life too often?

Have you settled for ungodly things?

Have you settled for less than God in your prayer life?

In your Bible study? In your walk with God?

THE CYCLE OF SETTLING

Can you say “Divorce?”

“Loss of job and income?”

I want to talk with you about “The Cycle of Settling”.

It is what I call the “Lazy Boy Syndrome”.

And we can find it all throughout the Bible.

But where it strikes me is in Gen. 11:31-12:1-5.

This is the account of Terah. He was Abram’s father and Lot’s uncle. Terah experienced the moral decay in his world. He decided that it was time to leave.

What concerns me about our world is that we have become numb to our moral decay. We tolerate sexual suggestions.

We tolerate ... At least it appears that Terah saw that something was wrong with his society and came to the conclusion that he needed to move them away.

Along the way I am sure he became tired. Weary from the journey, they stopped to rest. They found Haran. It was about halfway there. I am not sure what was appealing about Haran, but it satisfied Terah.

This is where I get really concerned for us.

Terah recognized that something needed to change. So he moved. He set out for God's dream.

He was hungry for righteousness.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. Mt. 5:6

God was filling him. He was eating from the hand of God.

Notice what Prov. 30:8-10 says.

Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.

Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, "Who is the Lord?" Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God."

Settling for less than God, affects me.

· Terah settled for less than what God had for him and it affected him personally.

Terah became an idolater (A worshiper of idols)

Josh 24:2.

2And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, *even* Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.

· Terah never experienced all that God had for him; impacting his world the way God wanted; His walk was definitely impeded.

Settling for less than God affects my loved ones.

· Terah settled for less than what God had for him and it affected his children.

Terah left a bad example that they had to overcome.

· Terah left a mess to for Abram to clean up. (12:1)

Gen. 12:1

1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

"Content makes poor men rich; discontent makes rich men poor." Benjamin Franklin.

Terah settled in the land of Haran. He made it half way. His goal was Canaan, the Promised Land. His goal was a Godly goal. After all, that is where God sent Abram!

When we settle for less than God, it affects us, but it also affects the ones we love!

Prov. 14:14; The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, But a good man will be satisfied from above.

Settle for what God gives!

In Philippians 4:11-13, Paul writes,

"11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (NKJV)

The key to settling with what God offers is not in what you have or don't have, but what He says! (Verse 13)

· Settle for God.

Philip Parham tells the story of a rich industrialist who was disturbed to find a fisherman sitting lazily beside his boat. "Why aren't you out there fishing?" he asked.

"Because I've caught enough fish for today," said the fisherman. Why don't you catch more fish than you need?" the rich man asked. "What would I do with them?"

"You could earn more money," came the impatient reply, "and buy a better boat so you could go deeper and catch more fish. You could purchase nylon nets, catch even more fish, and make more money. Soon you'd have a fleet of boats and be rich like me." The fisherman asked, "Then what would I do?" "You could sit down and enjoy life," said the industrialist. "What do you think I'm doing now?" the fisherman replied as he looked placidly out to sea. Our Daily Bread, May 18, 1994.

Be content with what you have, never with what you are.

1 Cor. 14:3 say, "He who prophesies speaks to men edification, exhortation, and comfort."

It has an absolute truth that applies to most areas in life. The absolute truth is this; hear from God! Those who prophesy must first hear from God!

In order for Paul to be content no matter the state, he first had to hear that it was God's will.

The key to Holy contentment is hearing and obeying.

How many of you have or had dreams of impacting your community? You wanted to be successful some way, somehow. You wanted people to see you and say, "There is someone who has it together." You wanted people to come to you for advice or counsel. Let me tell you how that can happen in your life.

Prophets hear from God, and then they go out and speak or do what God says.

The good news to us is that through Jesus Christ we all can hear God. And then we all can go and speak or do what He commands.

Notice what happens when we hear from God and do what God says.

- A building up occurs. (Edification)**
- A calling back occurs. (Exhortation, repentance)**

· A comfort is established. (Peace in the midst of a storm)

The comfort that this lazy-boy offers can be interrupted. As you settle into it, the phone rings and you have to go to the hospital; your child comes to you with a broken bone.

But when you settle for God, He gives you comfort in the midst of your storm.

Close with 1 Tim. 6:6-8

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be there with content.