

FAITH COMES BY HEARING Bible Study – 6.5.24 (for 6.9.24)

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who

dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

- 1) God speaks to Abram with a command - what command does God issue to Abram?
- 2) God also speaks to Abram about a blessing – what blessing does God issue for Abram's obedience?
- 3) Abram obeys and his call by God begins when he was 75. What does this note speak to us about God's plans and activity in our lives?

Second Reading: Acts 16:1-10

Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ²He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. ³Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. ⁵So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

⁶And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

- 1) The start of this passage tells us how Paul sets out on his first missionary journey without Barnabas (after they had a sharp disagreement). What thoughts do you think are going through Paul's mind as he begins?
- 2) Paul recruits Timothy, acts with honor towards the Jews, and then continues to deliver news. What is the result of this activity?

- 3) Paul also hits some roadblocks as he seeks direction for his missionary ministry. Who is the one putting up the roadblocks and providing the direction? How is this important?

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:35-38

³⁵And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they

were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

- 1) Matthew shares these words after a confrontation with the Pharisees. How much of a contrast do we see between Jesus and the Pharisees in these words?
- 2) What does Matthew intend for us to capture about what it means to follow Jesus?
- 3) Jesus invites us as we follow Him to be intentional in matters regarding evangelism. What especially does He note for us to be intentional about?