

ABRAHAM

The Father of Believers

Sermon delivered by

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On Sunday 23rd August'2015

Jerusalem Central Church,
Old Alwal, Secunderabad.

In the Bible, we see a man who is called as the 'friend of God'. God addressed him as His friend. God never called him as a follower or a disciple. As a matter of fact, he was a disciple and a follower, but at one particular point he became the friend of God. His name is Abraham. Abraham is called as the Father of Believers. All around the world there are believers and to all of us he is the father. How did he become a father to us? In the gospels we see -When a rich man died and went into the lake of fire, burning in hell he cries out "Father Abraham!" So by this instance we know that Abraham became the Father of Believers. Now, what is the specialty of this man. What is his House like? Let us meditate few things about this man.

Abraham's House is a

1. House of Separation:

His story starts in Geneses 12th Chapter. What did God say to Abraham? Let us read. *"The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you."² "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you .* **Genesis 12:1,2.**

This is the call of God. God asked Abraham to separate himself from his old company or fellowship. You have to get separated. You have to leave your old friends, leave your old habits; you have to leave your father's household. I am calling you, you are a separated person. You are a sanctified person. So his house is a House of separation.

Abraham obeyed to the call of God. Along with his wife, he was willing to be separated from his household. He walked out from that comfortable zone, not knowing where he has to go. God asked him to get separated and he just walked out. This is the first qualification a child of God should have. Whoever you maybe, an old person, a teenager- You have to separate yourself from the world, because you have received Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. You asked the Lord to forgive your sins and you want be a child of God. So, you ought to leave your old friendships, old habits, you can't continue in those things. You have to lead a separated and sanctified life. There is no neutral way. Many Christians want to please their worldly friends and at the same time they want to please God. You can't serve two masters.

The word of God exhorts us very clearly. *“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 2 Corinthians 6:14.* You see my dear brothers and sisters, in that passage, He says ‘Come out from among them And be separate...I will be your father and you will be my Children’. So you have to get up and walk out from that old and bad company. This is how, Abraham’s House is a “House of separation”. He along with his family are leading a separated life: not many friends, not many pleasures, not much happiness worldly, but they are enjoying the presence of God every day. Kindly think seriously about this, if there is any old company in your life, please take it away. That robs the joy of salvation. That will not enable you to grow spiritually. You can’t be comfortable in the presence of God. You can’t rejoice in Him. I need to examine, you need to examine.. What is that in your life which is not pleasing to God? Set yourself right with Him today and take it away. ***Separate yourself from the filth of this world.***

Secondly his house is a House of Prayer.

2. House of Prayer:

There is prayer in the House of Abraham. We should have the same kind of prayers in our houses. Read Genesis 12:8 *⁸From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. Genesis 12:8.* He prayed and he built an altar there. Do we pray, individually and as a family? If you are growing in that way, praise the Lord. In our Homes we have to encourage and cultivate a habit of prayer. Those who pray are powerful. A family that prays together stays together.

In the bible there are many Godly men who prayed and received the power of God and salvation in their lives. In cottage meeting, our brother shared about the man called Cornelius- because there are prayers in his house, God added every blessing. My dear Brothers and Sisters let us encourage prayers in our Homes and also in the Church, let us gather together for prayer. Someone said like this: ***less prayer less power, more prayer more power, no prayer no power.***

Thirdly Abraham’s house is a House of Faith.

3. House of Faith :

Read Genesis 15:6. *Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.* Later on read about his faith Hebrews 11: 8-11, When God asked him

to get out from his father's house he got up and walked without knowing anything-where to go and how to live, he just walked. Not one year or two years, throughout his life he walked. He trusted God; he depended upon the promises of God. Even though 25yrs passed by after receiving the promise, though nothing was happening-he trusted God (75+25 years). The bible says in Hebrews, he just saw the Glory of God from a long distance. And he saw the glory of heaven: yes there is heaven because the Lord said, yes there are angels because the Lord said, yes I am going to be there in heaven and see him face to face. This was his faith.

Not only did he live in faith but he died in faith. Praise the Lord! Halleluiah! We have to grow in faith. Many a times we are very weak in our faith. Every small temptation and every small thing is shaking us so easily. You have to strengthen your faith and me as well. As we walk with the Lord every day, God will strengthen our faith. By hearing the word of God, by learning the word of God we will grow in faith. ***A true believer's walk will be by faith but not by sight.***

Fourthly, Abraham's house is a House of Worship.

4. House of Worship:

Genesis 13:3,4 ³*From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier* ⁴*and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD.*

He came to a place and built an altar and he started worshiping the Lord. Genesis 13th Chapter and verse 18, *So Abram went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he pitched his tents. There he built an altar to the LORD.*

You see he came to a place called Hebron. The meaning of Hebron is 'Fellowship'. So he is having an experience of fellowship-House of fellowship. We all have to love the fellowship and grow in the fellowship. The book of Acts 2nd Chapter explains about this. New believers there love the fellowship and were growing in the fellowship. ***"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship..." Acts 2:42 Don't waver -Be planted and stable in the Fellowship.***

Fifthly Abraham's House is a House of training.

5. House of Training:

Genesis 14:14 *"When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan".*

There are 318 trained men are in this House whom he trained. We have to train our children, we have to train our people, our relatives and household in the ways of the Lord. The Bible says: 'you train up a child'. In order to **train** them you need to teach them, in order to **teach** them you should know the word of God, in order to **know** the word of God you should **read** the word of God. My dear brothers and sisters many fathers they are not able to teach their children. Many mothers they are not talking about the word of God to their sons and daughters. We have to do this, this is the responsibility of every father. We have to pray for them, we have to talk to them, so that they will be trained in the ways of God. ***In order to train your children you have to set up a good role model.***

Sixthly, his house is a House of Sacrifice.

6. House of Sacrifice:

Abraham knows how to give to the Lord. Not only receiving from the Lord but also to give to the Lord. In this way he showed his utmost obedience.

Genesis 22:2 *Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."*

You see, God gave him a test- A big test. It is something like this, maybe to see whether he loves God more or he loves his son. That is way he tested him saying take your son give him as an offering unto me. Oh! It is a hard test, Abraham can't dream or even imagine sacrificing his son because Isaac is not one son among many sons. He is the only one son whom he got in his old days, whom he loves so much, but God wants him as a sacrifice. God tested him in this manner. But the Bible says: Abraham passed the test. That is why the Bible calls him as a 'Father of Believers'. We fail in small tests. We will become weak and stop praying and reading the word of God. ***But, Abraham did not spare his son, he fulfilled the demand of God.*** That is way God blessed Abraham.

Seventhly his house is a House of Blessing.

7. House of Blessing:

At the time of marriage of his son Isaac, Eliezer a senior most person who served Abraham is giving a testimony like this. **Genesis 24:34** *So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has blessed my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys.*

His servant tells: The Lord blessed my master abundantly, and he became wealthy, he has gold, silver, he has cattle, men and women to work. Many a times many people want blessings but they don't want to sacrifice. We don't want to lead a sacrificial life. ***Blessing and sacrifice walk together.*** So we have to learn these truths.

Abraham's house is a house of Hospitality.

8. House of Hospitality:

We know the story in chapter 18. Read **Genesis 18:1,6,7** *"The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. ² Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.*

So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seah's of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

⁷ Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. ⁸ He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree".

There are three visitors to Abraham's house. He was willing to share the blessings he received. Yes, our houses should be houses of Hospitality. Give hospitality to the poor and needy, hospitality to the migrants and new comers to the city, hospitality to the God servants. All these things are written in the bible. Abraham stood number one in following them. That is why God revealed everything to Abraham. He stood at the door of his house, while he was looking out he was able to see three visitors. He recognized that they are Godly people and they are from heaven. We should identify who are Godly people and who are ungodly people. Yes, these days false

prophets are prevailing everywhere, but sometimes the true people of God: who love you, who wants you to grow in all the ways will rebuke you.

A true man of God talks truthfully and honestly. He will not praise on your face, he will go according to the word of God. He will spend time in prayer and he will remember the families of the Church. All the time the ministry will be revolving in his mind. A true man of God lives for the ministry, he will not have much worldly friendships, entertainments and pleasures. ***The true man of God knows his flock, and sheep should understand and walk accordingly then the name of the Lord will be glorified.*** Then our houses will be called a 'House of blessing'. So, when he stood at the door he could see the Godly men. He received and gave them wonderful hospitality. After receiving the hospitality a prophetic word came out from God, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Lastly Abraham's house is a House of Giving.

9. House of giving:

Actually the tithe was pronounced by God through Moses to the people of Israelites. So Moses gave these kind of rules and regulations to his people. Even those passages are applicable to us. But before knowing a rule or regulation, Abraham is talking to the priest Melchizedek.

And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. Genesis 14:20

Melchizedek is a representative of Lord Jesus Christ in Old Testament because he is a priest and a king. So before the Lord gave the commandment, he gave ten percent in all things and God blessed him abundantly.

Today the Lord is speaking to us through the life of Abraham. Abraham is a father of believers. He is a great role model, he is a friend of God, his testimony is wonderful in the word of God. He lead a separated life and a sanctified life. His house is a separated house.

Conclusion:

Yes, my dear brothers and sisters, there are so many people living all around us. You need not imitate them, you need not follow them. We are separated people. There is appreciation and there is a gift, there are mansions in the father's house. That is why

we need not compete with the worldly people. Lead a separated life; lead a life which is pleasing to God. Secondly, Abraham's house is a House of Prayer. Abraham's house is a house of faith. All the days and all the years he stood for faith. He is claiming the promises of God. There are three thousand promises in the word (Bible), all these promises are for you and me. We have to claim the promises. Lord you said like this in your word, do it in my life. Yes my dear brothers and sisters we need to grow in faith. His house is a house of worship. Worship is remembering God's goodness. Magnifying and glorifying the name of the Lord continually. Worship the Lord through singing, worship the Lord by expressing your gratitude towards the Lord. In your house you can worship, in the Church you can worship, among the people you can glorify God. And next His house is a house of fellowship, because he reached a place called Hebron. Fellowship is God's house, fellowship is God's people, we need to interact with them, we need to pray with them. He had an experience of fellowship. His House is a House of Training. He trained hundreds of people. And his house is a house of sacrifice. His house is a House of Blessing. God poured out his blessing upon him. And his house is a house of Hospitality. He gave to the Lord cheerfully and gladly. Before God gave commandment to Moses, Abraham gave one tenth to Melchizedek.

How is our life? How are we leading our families? Let us come closer to him. Let us draw nearer to him. Ask the Lord to help you. Say: Lord make my family as Abraham's family. Lord let these standards prevail in my house. Lord Let your statues fulfill in my family. Lord me and my family will serve you Lord. Lord please help us, bring us together, help us to pray together. Lord I want to take time for my family, I want lead my family in your ways. I want teach my children your ways Lord. Let us take this seriously my dear Brothers and Sisters, It's an exhortation to you, to me and to all of us. May the Lord bless our families like Abraham's family. He received all the earthly blessings and heavenly blessings.

Prayer :

Thank you Lord for the life of Abraham, many a times I am failing in some of the areas Lord. Lord renew my strength, revive me, and draw me closer to you. Bless all our families. Lord help us to talk about you with our children. Help us to pray together as a family. Lord, help us not to neglect the fellowship. Continue to lead and continue to bless all our families. Until we meet again be with us and help us Lord. Set right the things in our families. Lord give salvation to each and every dear member of our Family. Lord it is not you will that any one should perish. Lord you want everybody to be saved. That is why you are patiently waiting Lord. You are stretching your wounded hand and giving invitation **“Come unto me and I will give**

you rest". Father God, If there is anyone among us this morning who have not given their hearts to you, let them receive you into their hearts right now. Lord, give them the free gift of salvation and help each brother, sister and young person to have that assurance of salvation. We pray in Jesus name AMEN.

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