

## Starting Over by Kevin Barra

January 3, 2016

Genesis 12

It's Time to Start Over with God. Where do I begin? Is your life going the direction that God is going?

### What does it look like to start over with God?

- I. Start listening
- II. Start Following
- III. Re-Start

#### I. **START LISTENING**- *Read Genesis 12:1-3*

a. God is Speaking are we listening?

b. 3 Objections to Starting Over with God

##### i. **I can't hear God**

1. How Does God Speak?

a. *God Speaks Through His World*- The heavens are declaring the Glory of God

i. *Read Psalm 19*

b. *God Speaks through His Word*

i. The Son: *Read Hebrews 1:1-3*: He is the Image of God

ii. The Scripture: *Hebrews 4:12*- the word of God is living and active

2. The truth is, I don't think the problem is that we can't hear. It's that **many of us don't want to hear.**

##### ii. **It's too late**

1. I'm too old, I'm too far gone. You don't know my past.

a. *Read Joshua 24:2-3*

2. Read *Genesis 12:4* – How old was Abraham?
3. God didn't call a good guy. He called a guy in the midst of a dark culture to step out with him.

**iii. It's too hard**

1. Read *Genesis 12:2*

- a. Leave
  - i. Leave your country- Leave the familiar
  - ii. Leave your kindred- Leave what's safe
  - iii. Leave your father's house- Leave those you love

2. **The Call is always hard. In every time, in every culture, in every place, leaving is always hard.**

- c. If you listen to God, He constantly calls us from where we are to where He wants us to be.
  - i. Read *Genesis 12:1-3*
    1. There are 5 "I will" statements
    2. Listening to God is primarily about Trusting in what God is saying He will do. When you've heard him, then you start following.
- d. God Brings Abraham into 2 Challenges ahead.
  - i. Cultural Challenge
  - ii. Trust Challenge

**II. START FOLLOWING - *Genesis 12:4-9***

**a. Follow through**

- i. Read *Acts 7:2-4*
- ii. Read *Genesis 11:31-32*
  1. Why stop in Haran?

- iii. Many of us get caught in following God halfway
  - 1. We start walking and stop.

- 2. Jesus tells the parable of the Soils.

- 3. God speaks to Abraham and says get up.

**b. Follow through in culture**

- i. *Read Genesis 12:6*

- ii. **When God calls us to Follow Him, he doesn't remove the Obstacles.**

- iii. Our Country is drawing further and further into a conflict of cultures.

- 1. *Read 1 Peter 3:15*

- 2. Is Christ set apart in your heart? Are you following him?

- 3. Are you ready to give a response with gentleness and respect?

- a. Have you set up your altar to God where people know who you are and what you stand for in the midst of Culture?

**c. 2<sup>nd</sup> Challenge, not only culture, but now a Test of Faith**

**III. RE-START – *Read Genesis 12:10-20***

- a. Be ready to restart

- i. Every Start Requires a Restart along the way.

b. *Read Genesis 12:11-16*

c. **This isn't a record of flawless people making perfect decisions as they follow God. There is rugged, gritty, unimpressive, raw failure all across the pages of scripture.**

i. God "remembers our frame, he remembers we are but dust."

d. It's Hard to Start Over, but there is Something Beautiful about a Rebuild.

e. Abraham is at one of these moments in life. He is so far outside of God's plan

i. But God comes to those who are far, and to those who have blown it

ii. You have never blown it so big that God has given up on you

f. *Read John 21*

#### IV. **Application**

a. Are you Ready to Start over?

b. Listening

c. Following

d. ReStarting