

## **“God’s Friend – Abraham”**

“...Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness—and he was called a friend of God.”  
(James 2:23)

### **Counterculture Calling**

Joshua 24:2-3 – (2) “And Joshua said to all the people, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods. (3) Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac.’”

Genesis 12:1-5, 7 – (1) “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. (2) And 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. (3) I 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.’ (4) So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. (5) ...they came to the land of Canaan, (7) Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your offspring I will give this land.’ So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.”

### **Counting the Cost**

Luke 14:25-33 – <sup>25</sup>“Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to encounter another

king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.”

### **God's Friends:**

#### **Walk with God**

Amos 3:3 – “Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet?”

Genesis 5:22-24 – <sup>22</sup>“Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup>Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. <sup>24</sup>Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.”

#### **Combat ‘Culture-Creep’**

Romans 12:2 – “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

James 4:4-5 – “You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, ‘He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us?’”