

Just Step Out

Exploring the Wild Frontier of Faith

Pastor Toby Locke • Week 5 • 2/17/19

Disappointment with God

Genesis 15:1-6

Introduction: So, Abram's first ever recorded words to God...are a COMPLAINT???

Examining the Story: (Genesis 15:1-3)

⇒ Abram expresses DISAPPOINTMENT with God.

⇒ DISAPPOINTMENT with God is COMMON.

⇒ Our natural response: put DISTANCE between us and God.

So, how SHOULD we respond to Disappointment?

⇒ STAY. (Genesis 15:1-3)

⇒ COMPLAIN. (Genesis 15:2-3)

⇒ LISTEN. (Genesis 15:4-5)

⇒ BELIEVE anyway. (Genesis 15:6)

Concluding Questions:

- Are you in the grip of disappointment?
- Are you backing away, putting a safe distance between you and God?
- Please DON'T! There's no life apart from God!

Debrief Plan: 2/17/2019

Icebreakers:

1. Okay, time to settle the debate for all time – name the most romantic couple in literary history (books, movies, TV)? Give support for your answer!
2. Think of the most significant relationship in your life – can you remember the first time that you had a *real* fight with that person? What was it about?

Sermon Summary: When things don't go how we expect them to go in our walk with God, we experience disappointment, which tempts us to walk away from God. Abram teaches us instead to stay, speak our complaints to God honestly, and double down on our faith in Him.

Discussion Questions:

* Examining the Story

1. Reflect on the Abram stories (Genesis 12-14). How has Abram invested in his relationship with God so far? What has God done to invest in it?
2. Read Genesis 15:1-3. Does Abram have a right to be worried?
3. On a scale of 1-10, how surprised were you to hear how many of God's friends expressed disappointment with Him (Numbers 11:11-15, Job 30:19-23, Psalm 13:1-3, Psalm 88:13-15, Habakkuk 1:2-3, Matthew 27:45-46) over the years?
4. If you are feeling disappointed with God, are you more likely to keep it to yourself and just distance yourself from God, or to be blunt and honest and direct with him about it? Which response is better and why?

* How SHOULD we respond to Disappointment?

5. PT said, "Our culture has convinced us that unrelieved pain is the greatest evil a person can endure." Agree / disagree? Give examples of how that message is communicated to us.
6. What kind of difficult circumstances are the easiest for you to give up on as your disappointment grows?
7. Re-read Genesis 15:2-3. Should Abram have kept his complaints to himself? Give biblical examples to support your answer!
8. When does complaining to God "cross the line"?
9. Read Genesis 15:4-6. Why does God simply repeat His previous promise? Why not just give Abram what he wanted?
10. Why does God value FAITH from us so much? Why not just give in to us?
11. What might it look like to "double down" on your faith this week?



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