



Ambassadors of a **WORLDWIDE BROTHERHOOD**

MEDITATION 1 : Vocation: Abraham (Genesis 12)

The story of Abram / Abraham has become the foundation of the people of Israel. Following his trail is a template for every believer. We read the story of Abram's vocation. God invites him to take the road. In Scripture, this is the basic vocation story. If we hear God's call in our hearts, the question is: what do we answer?

- **Lectio: Genesis 12, 1 – 9**

Now Yahweh said to Abram,

“Get out of your country,
and from your relatives,
and from your father's house,
to the land that I will show you.
I will make of you a great nation.
I will bless you, and make your name great.
You will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and I will curse him who curses you.
In you will all of the families of the earth be blessed.”

So Abram went, as Yahweh had spoken to him. Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed out of Haran. Abram took Sarai his wife, Lot his brother's son, all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls who they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan. Into the land of Canaan they came. Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. The Canaanite was then in the land. Yahweh appeared to Abram, and said,
“I will give this land to your see.”
He built an altar there to Yahweh, who appeared to him.
He left from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel,
and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Ai on the east.
There he built an altar to Yahweh, and called on the name of Yahweh.
Abram travelled, going on still toward the South.

- **Meditatio**

The texts we have just read, is not the start of Abrahams story. This story starts with Abraham's father, Terach, who migrates from Ur (Iraq) towards Canaan. However, he remains staying in Haran, at the foot of what is now called the Kurdish mountains.

Here Abram hears the voice of God. Abram is still called Abram. In Chapter 17, Abram gets a new name: Abraham (17.5). The new name stems from the covenant of God. One of the other provisions of the covenant is the obligation of circumcision.

The first part of the text has two major themes: 'I will make you a great nation', and: 'I will bless you'. God focuses to all mankind, through this one person (Abram). He wants to reach all people through Abram. He calls not all people at once, but *one* man is called by God. By this means, the promise will be spread across the earth. As Abram arrives in Canaan, he will receive a third promise: 'this country belongs to your offspring'.

In the second part of our text, Abram takes the road, unconditionally. However, he does not leave *everything* behind. He goes with his wife Sarai (later on she too will get a new name) and they take their possessions.

The last part of the text tells us about the two altars. Two places where Abram sacrifices to God. These places are important in the Scriptures: Shechem (northern Israel) and Bethel (southern Israel). In Shechem, God appeared to Abram. In Bethel, Abram first called YHWH by his name.

We now read the text again

- **Contemplatio**

After each part of the following text, we will be silent for a moment. At the end there is a silence of 10 minutes, ending with instrumental music.

1. The story of Abram / Abraham has become the foundation of the people of Israel. To follow his trail is a template for every believer. We read the story of Abram's vocation. The template consists of: being called, answering, going on our way. Often there is another element, namely: opposition to the vocation. Comments and questions like: 'this is not for me, I'm the only one, I can not, can I do? Why me? I am most suitable? I have not made it up?'
2. God invites everyone to get going, to take the road with Him. We do not have to give up everything, but we do have to dare to go away. All that is asked of us: take the road. And how will that affect us? Do we dare to leave our own world? Do we dare to enter the world of God?
3. In Scripture, this is the basic vocation story for all people. God calls one man. You are that one person. You will become a blessing for the people around you. If we hear God calling in our hearts, the question is: what do we answer?
4. For every answer we need to let go something. What keeps us most, from walking with God?
5. Each answer will also ask a sacrifice. What are we willing to give to God?
6. Each answer needs your invocation of the name of God. What name do you use to call for God? How do you start your prayers? Do you always use the same name to call for God?

Music

- **Collatio (sharing)**

The group is divided into groups of four people, they all get four questions:

1. Which answers are born in your heart during the meditatio?
2. What does 'take the road' mean to you?
3. What does vocation (calling) mean to you?
4. How do you speak to God? Which name(s) do you use to call for God?

- **Oratio (praying)**

1. If you decide to leave, what do you ask of God? What do you need?
 2. Write down the names for God that came up in your group.
- We share the results in the large group.

Together we formulate a prayer, based on the questions and answers of the previous items. We can also sing some prayers.

- **Creatio (creative process)**

This item will be a response to the question: "How you speak to God?" Different names for God may have passed by. Together you can come up with more names you can call God. Use these names and make it a rap!

You can support your rap with an instrument (drums, for example) and make a (short) sound file. This can be posted on the Ambassadors Facebook page (technical details and instructions can be found in the group leader manual).

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Ambassadors-of-a-Worldwide-Brotherhood/176180702401176>

For inspiration: take a look at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71GMrGB1KKo> (a Jewish Orthodox rap group). Of course, your rap doesn't have to be as professional as this one...

- **Operatio (making concrete plans)**

1. The prophet Jonah is one of the people that God calls. In his story you can read a strong resistance line. Read the book of Jonah.

2. What can you actually do, with what you've discovered in meditation and in conversations with others?

Your plan will be discussed during the next meeting.

For example:

Consider how your average day looks like. How do you spend your time?

How much time do you have for someone else?

Do you sometimes walk away for your vocation, like Jonah?

During the next days/weeks, give a part of your time to someone in need, for example, someone who lives in a care institution or in a residential care center, a person with a disability or a street child.

Find someone for whom you can be a brother or sister.

Maybe you already give a part of your time to someone in need; keep on doing so!