

March 8, 2020

**Led Into The Unknown:
Calling and Blessing**



First Reading ~ Genesis 12:1-4a

YHWH said to Abram,
“Leave your country, your people, and your parents,
and go to a place I will show you.

I will make of you a great people
and I will bless you,
and make your name great
so that you will be a blessing (dispensing good to others).

I will bless those who bless you,
and the one who curses you I will curse.
And all the people on the face of the earth
will be blessed through you.”

So Abram began the journey as YHWH directed.

Second Reading

~ adapted from “Listening to Life”

from Parker Palmer in “Let Your Life Speak”

“Let your life speak”. When I was in my early thirties, I thought I knew what those words meant. I lined up the loftiest ideals I could find and set out to achieve them. The results were rarely admirable, and often laughable. But always they were unreal – a distortion of my true self – as must always be the case when one lives from the outside in, not the inside out. I had simply found a noble way to live a life that was not my own, a life spent imitating heroes instead of listening to my own heart. Trying to live someone else’s life, or live by someone else’s norm, will invariably fail, and may even do great damage.

Some thirty years later, “Let your life speak” means something else to me. “Before you tell your life what you intend to do with it, listen to what it intends to do with you. Before you tell your life what truths and values you have decided to live up to, let your life tell you what truths you embody, what values you represent.”

Vocation... not necessarily an occupation, but the way to live life... does not mean a goal I pursue. It is rooted in the Latin word for “voice”. It means a calling I hear. Before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am. I must listen for the truths and values at the heart of my own identity- not the values and standards by which I *must* live, but the values and standards by which I cannot help but live if I am living my own life.