

## Unstoppable

Genesis 12, Matthew 5  
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1. Welcome
2. Intro
  - A. Abraham story, one of the most famous heroes of the Bible, but first a review that includes what I think might be the scariest verse in the Bible.
  - B. Review
    - i. Creation: good world, trustworthy God
    - ii. Fall: sin, fracture, fear, hiding, and death
    - iii. Downhill slide: Cain, great grandson Lamech. **Lamech said to his wives, “Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words. I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me. If Cain is avenged seven times, then Lamech seventy-seven times.” Genesis 4:23-24**
    - iv. Then Genesis 6 **The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. So the LORD said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.” Genesis 6:5-7.**
    - v. That’s how bad it got. God contemplated scrapping the whole thing. Giving up on his creation. And yet he didn’t. And today’s story is about what God did instead.
  - C. Instead, God decides to reach his fallen humans and begin the process of saving the world by means of other humans.
    - i. Remember, that’s basically what God wanted in the first place, to rule the world through faithful human beings. Rule the earth and subdue it. He had blessed Adam and Eve. And He had wanted them to be the means by which he blessed the rest of the world.
    - ii. He’s not giving up on that plan. He’s unstoppable.
3. God calls Abraham and Sarah.
  - A. (Study guide and blog for their journey and background.)
  - B. Focus instead on what God says to them. **The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Genesis 12:1-3**
4. “I will bless you” (Unstoppable. He’s going to bless his creatures.)
  - A. Descendants. “I will make you into a great nation.”

- i. Two verses: **He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Genesis 15:5 &**
  - ii. ... **The LORD your God has increased your numbers so that today you are as numerous as the stars in the sky. Deuteronomy 1:10...**
  - iii. Descendants are a blessing. Grandparents, crying newborns.
- B. Land & Provision “Go to the land I will show you.”
- i. A promise to Moses: **And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.’ Exodus 3:17.**
  - ii. God wants to bless you. And God wants you to enjoy the blessings he provides. I know I underestimate this side of the Biblical story. Do you?
    - a. People abuse this sometimes. Whole religious movements have been built out of abusing this.
    - b. We’re also not supposed to use this as a rationalization for greed. So this isn’t about hoarding or gluttony, which are real dangers in our culture.
    - c. But that doesn’t undo the truth that God wants you to enjoy the milk and honey of the land. Doesn’t have to be lavish.
5. “All peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Unstoppable. He’s going to bless the world through them.) The promise is a promise of what will come through the nation Abraham becomes.
- A. Greatest example of this in the OT is the Blessing of God’s law. Israel offered the world the gift of knowing God’s ways. Many peoples will come and say, **“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. Isaiah 2:3.** They are a witness to how the world works when people obey God. Imagine the witness of a community that truly lived by “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” “You shall not kill.” “You shall not commit adultery.” “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” A community of deep grace for what we’ve done, and a deep commitment to a new way of life.
- B. But the blessing runs even deeper. Deeper to a place that take this from pipe dream to possible. Isaiah 49 is a prophecy of the Messiah, the Savior that would come from Israel for the sake of the whole world. **I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth. Isaiah 49:6.**
- i. Jesus applies this to his disciples. **You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16.**
- C. To be a disciple of Jesus is to be drawn into this story. It is to be drawn into the story of the unstoppable will of God to bless you and to make you a blessing to the world.

6. That's part of the vision that God has given this community. He's called us to shine the light Jesus says lives in us. We're just living out the story that God started way back in Abraham, that wrote in the Old Testament, and that he extended to us in Jesus. We want to live in such a way that we give our world the opportunity to say "I see light in you. If that's what a relationship with Jesus causes, I want to know more about Jesus." That's why we turn our building into a homeless shelter every December. It's why we send teams and money to Haiti. It's why we dream about lives of selfless love in all the places that we work and live.
  - A. And this is not a complicated thing. We make it too hard sometimes. A young girl in our congregation caught this vision, and with the help of her parents, lived out this story in her life. **Natalie Kaytor video.**
  - B. Outro: God is unstoppable. He'll work through kids. He'll work through adults. He's unstoppable, and once we get a taste of what he's doing, we won't stop either. Natalie blessed our church's local partner. I heard that she had so much fun with this one, that now she's making bookmarks to sell to her neighbors to raise money for Mission of Hope in Haiti. She's up to \$20 in sales so far. ...Is there anybody here who would like to match her donation?
7. How is God writing your story? Are your eyes open to the blessings of God in your life. God wants you to enjoy his blessings. Is there a way that the self-giving love of Jesus can shine in you in your family? In your workplace? In your neighborhood? Do you want to read bedtime stories to kids at the Service Center? Volunteer with Project Home in December? Help develop a partnership to bless a neighborhood school – or our very own school partners here? What story of blessing is God writing in your life?
8. The Big God Story is the story of an unstoppable God with an unstoppable love for His Creation. Because of that love, you and I get to be in His Story. And if we let that love take shape in us, countless others will join the story because of God's work in us.

PRAY