

The Man Who Kept Looking Up

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I. Introduction.

- A. The thing that kept Abraham going is that he saw the city of God. (Hebrews 11:13)
- B. Abraham knew that the world was not his home.
- C. The vision of the heavenly city kept Abraham going. (2 Corinthians 5)
- D. There were three cities involved in Abraham's life, and there are three involved in our lives as well.

II. A city behind: Ur.

- A. Every believer has turned his back to the past.
- B. Abraham took a giant step when he trusted God to leave Ur. (Acts 7)
- C. The Jewish answer was to go back in the face of trouble. The right answer is to go forward.
- D. We must be careful about the pull of the past.

III. A city beside: Sodom.

- A. Sodom is our next door neighbor in our society.
- B. Abraham was separated from Sodom. It is possible to live in an evil society and not be tainted by it.
- C. Friendship with the world is enmity with God.
- D. We are not to conform to the world. (Romans 12:2)
- E. Separation is not isolation. (Genesis 14)
- F. We are to do good and pray for the people in the midst of society. (Jeremiah 29)
- G. Abraham was separated, he served and he prayed for Sodom.

IV. A city before and beyond: heaven.

- A. Heaven is not just a destination--it is a motivation.
- B. Jesus was motivated by heaven. (John 7:32)
- C. Knowing that you are going to heaven is motivation for an uncompromising witness, an unselfish life, an untroubled heart and an undivided church. (John 17; 14)

Application questions:

1. What from the past pulls you in a negative way?

2. How would you distinguish separation from the world from isolation?

3. How does knowing our destination motivate us to witness? Explain.
