Lessons From an Affluent Wanderer (Gen. 20:13)

Intro: tone = positive (assume doing)
- Abraham very important character in God’s plan for our salvation
  - the gospel was preached “beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘All the nations will be blessed in you.’” (Gal. 3:8)
  - father of all who live by faith: Jew and Gentile (Gal. 3:9)
- lesson: Lessons From an Affluent Wanderer – Abraham (Gen. 20:13) “God caused me to wander from my father's house”

Abraham believed God, even when it didn’t make sense – we must do the same (faith)
- Rom. 4:18-22 Abraham believed when it was humanly hopeless – not make sense – Sarah, baby at 90
  - illus.: tell 90 year old lady she was going to have baby, laugh (Sarah), body not able to reproduce
  - Abraham believed anyway, although impossible with man, righteous – Heb. 11:11-12

- application:
  - “faith” is believing and obeying God, even when it doesn’t make sense to us – baby at 100/99
    - Col. 3:17 do all in name of the Lord – not just what seems logical
    - Pr. 16:25 way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death
  - illus.: driving car, wrong direction, thinking right, won’t get there

- illus. baptism to be saved:
  - 1 Pet. 3:21 baptism now saves you, appeal to God for good conscious – world, nonsense
  - Col. 2:11-12, 13 faith in working of God is the difference

Abraham “went” where God commanded, even when it didn’t make sense – we must do the same
- Heb. 11:8 Abraham left home, not know where going – faith, obey

- map: Ur, Haran, Canaan
- map: famine in Canaan so went to Egypt, returned to Canaan
- Heb. 11:9 lived in tents as a sojourner, wanderer, alien, foreign land – faith, obey
  - very different life from UR that was a prosperous, industrial, commercial, and agricultural center with a population of about 360,000
  - Abraham in Ur was probably an upper class family member in a reasonable spacious permanent home in town, well educated, accustomed to the comforts city life, some suggest he was a merchant prince, powerful enough to command his own army and equal to Canaanite kings whom he later interacted with in Canaan
  - leaving home and becoming wanderer was a great sacrifice, in human terms, though he was still a powerful and rich man until death

- pics. illus.: powerful rich man who lived in NY move to jungle – still rich, but much different

- application:
  - like Abraham, we must leave the world of sin, not knowing exactly where going, confident God take care of us – heaven in the end
    - Heb. 13:13-14 we must go outside the camp, to be with Jesus and go to heaven
    - 2 Cor. 6:17 we must come out of the world and be separate, although live in the world
    - illus.: song, #498, Where He Leads I’ll Follow

- like Abraham, we must live as sojourners, wanders, aliens in this life – heaven our home
  - Phil. 3:20 citizenship is in heaven, eagerly wait for Christ’s return
  - Heb. 11:10 looking for the city, whose architect and builder is God – heaven
  - illus.: song, #230, This World Is Not My Home, I’m just passing through
Abraham “did” what God commanded, even when it didn’t make sense – we must do the same (faith)
- Heb. 11:17-19 Abraham’s thinking – not understand, knew God would work out, obeyed
  - illus.: teaching girls to drive, give a command to test them, to see if they’ll immediately do what I command, before I risk my life with them driving in traffic – God’s commands are a test
  - application:
    - “faith” is doing what God commands, even when it doesn’t make sense to us
    - God does not ask us to sacrifice our children, but He asks us to sacrifice ourselves in service to Him
      - Rom. 12:1-2 present body and living and holy sacrifice to God
      - Col. 3:5 consider members of earthly body dead
        - Jesus: deny self, take up cross daily, follow me
        - Paul: I die daily / it’s no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me

Abraham proves that rich people can be saved – we are richer than Abraham in many respects
- Gen. 20:13 Abraham affluent wanderer – rich people can go to heaven – us
- Mk. 10:23-27 hard for rich to enter kingdom – easier for camel to go through eye of needle
  - illus.: Mk. 10:17-22 rich young ruler, hard to love God more than riches
  - application:
    - young people: you may be the wealthiest generation to live upon earth – be careful, alert
      - you can do it, but it won’t be easy
    - Jesus: more given, more required – Are you using your wealth for good?
      - illus.: Philemon, free a slave to minister to Paul
    - 1 Tim. 6:17-19 warning, admonition, instruction – Are you doing this?

Summary / Inv.
- review / admonitions:
  - believe and obey, even if it doesn’t make sense
  - go where God commands
  - do what God commands
  - be on alter for sins associated with wealth – know, it’s going to be harder for you than the poor
- inv.
  - song, #334, Where He Leads Me