

# THE DISCIPLESHIP OF ABRAHAM

## “Reconnecting With Our Roots”

### I. “Roots: The Saga Of An American Family” By Alex Haley

(One of the most influential novels of the 20<sup>th</sup> century)

#### A. History

This book came out in 1976. It was the story of Haley’s family’s history, beginning with his ancestors brought from Africa to America by white slave traders. It won a Pulitzer Prize in 1977, the year it was adapted as a popular ABC [television miniseries](#).

Its popularity also sparked a greatly increased public interest in [genealogy](#), as people became interested in learning about their “roots”, their family history.

**“My fondest hope is that Roots may start black, white, brown red, yellow people digging back for their own roots. Man that would make me feel 90 feet tall.”**

**Alex Haley**

Last month, a new remake of the show ran on the History Channel...

#### B. The Remake On The History Channel

1. It was hard to watch the cruelty and injustice of how the slaves were treated.

2. There was so much violence you could miss the big message of the new version was so violent you could miss the message of how...

*The strategy of the slavers was to separate the people from their roots; to rob them of their identity; to make them forget who they were and where they came from.*

- a. They separated families; husbands from wives; brothers from sisters
- b. They gave the slaves new names because...

3. **They knew that if you can disconnect a people from their roots, you can bring people into slavery and keep them there!**

4. **This is what's happening in our nation today!**

**Powerful forces are at work to disconnect this generation from our American roots!**

a. We are losing the culture wars and our religious freedoms are slowly being taken away from us because we Americans have become disconnected from our roots! We have forgotten...

a. That our founding fathers established America on Christian principles

b. That the constitution was based on the laws of God found in the Bible

c. And that our fathers never spoke of freedom apart from personal responsibility and hard work.

5. There are powerful spiritual forces at work in our country to disconnect this current generation from our American roots; most of our young people today have no idea of where we came from or what made America the greatest nation on earth.

6. And the same kind of disconnection has happened to the Christian church in America!

7. We have gotten disconnected from our roots; the kind of Christianity that brought down the Roman Empire and turned the world upside down!

### **C. The Vine And The Branches**

1. Consider something Jesus said to His disciples:

**I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.**

**John 15:5**

a. Think about the metaphor of a vineyard: the fruit is found at the end of the branches

b. **But the condition is that the branches remain connected to the vine!**

**(SLIDE DRAWING)**

b. Without Him, we can do nothing!

2. If we aren't bearing fruit, it means we've been disconnected from our roots!

3. God's solution is reconnection.

## **II. Scripture Proofs**

### **A. When Israel Went Astray**

1. Israel had backslidden and gone into captivity; the nation was in a mess; So God's solution was to point them to the past; to remember where they came from!

**"Listen to me, all you who follow after righteousness—all who seek the Lord! Consider the rock from which you were cut, the quarry from which you were mined.**

**Isaiah 51:1**

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**What did He mean? Read the next verse!**

**Yes, think about Abraham, your ancestor, and Sarah, who gave birth to your nation. Abraham was only one man when I called him. But when I blessed him, he became a great nation."**

**Isaiah 51:1-2 NLT**

2. I've been preaching on "The Discipleship Of Abraham" to reconnect us with our roots, our spiritual father Abraham and his walk of faith as a model for Christian discipleship!

**"..the father of all them that believe...those who walk in the steps of his faith."**

**Romans 4:11-12**

3. In the coming months, as a church family, we're going to go back to our root system and reconnect with the kind of Christianity modeled in the Book of

Acts; the church that brought down the mighty Roman Empire and turned the world upside down! Why? Because...

**THE GREAT HOPE WE HAVE IS TO REIMAGINE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE (DISCIPLESHIP) THAT RECONNECTS US WITH OUR TRUE IDENTITY!**

4. The time is right! God is bringing the whole world into a season of radical change!

- a. The nations are in an uproar! (Brexit, US Politics)
- b. The devil has his radical jihadists
- b. But God is raising up His own radicals!

5. What does “radical” mean?

**“radical”**

**of or going to the root or origin; fundamental:**

**as in “a radical difference”**

**Dictionary.com**

6. God is calling us to be radical for Jesus!

## II. Going Radical: Reconnecting With The Discipleship Of Abraham

**“the father of all them that believe...those who walk in the steps of his faith.”**

**Romans 4:12**

Here are 3 things we can learn from him...

**GOING RADICAL**

**1 Radical response to GOD’S CALL**

**2 Radical obedience to HIS LORDSHIP**

**3 Radical commitment to HIS GREAT COMMISSION**

A. First: A Radical Response To God’s Calling

**Hebrews 11:8**

**By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.**

1. God calls: “Go forth” to Abraham, “Follow Me” to the disciples.

a. Saving faith is simple...a radical commitment to follow the call.

**“From Abraham on, the life of faith has always been ‘at the sound of a voice’. There is only one voice that matters to us—the voice of God, and not the voice of the people or the voice of the times.”**

***Os Guinness, The Impossible People***

2. We confuse “calling” with full-time ministry!

a. This is a disconnection!

b. There are special “callings”; but the call to discipleship is to everyone!

3. Don’t think you can’t do this! Those 2 words, “Follow Me”, contain all the power you’ll ever need to do the job! If we have...

**B. Second: A Radical Commitment To His Lordship!**

1. If you’re born again, stop getting saved every week!

2. If you’re saved, that’s settled; from then on it’s not about Jesus as Savior, it’s about Jesus as LORD!

a. There are millions of Roman Catholics who worship Mary and pray to Mary; but what are Mary’s last recorded words in the Bible?

**“Whatever He says, do it!”**

**Mary in John**

3. Look at the life of Abraham; the story of Jesus disciples; it’s not about Sunday!

4. Abraham’s greatest test of faith was when God called him to sacrifice his son Isaac:

**“We must demonstrate our confidence in the Gospel by a courage that is prepared to break with all that contradicts what God says.”**

## **Os Guinness, *The Impossible People***

### **C. Finally, #3: A Radical Commitment To The Great Commission**

1. If there's any one place where we in the American church have become disconnected from our roots it's in the matter of a faith that reaches outward instead of turning inward.

2. Our cultural Christianity focuses on our personal comfort and blessing; something unheard of in our root system.

3. But God has the world on his mind!

### **B. Examples**

#### **1. Adam and Eve**

**Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it.**

**Genesis 1:28**

a. It wasn't all about them!

b. God had the whole world on His mind!

#### **2. Abraham**

**Gen 12:1-3**

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. **2** I will make you into a great nation. **I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others.** **3** I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

#### **3. Israel in Isaiah 60:3**

For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. **And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.**

**Isaiah 60:2-3**

#### **4. The Disciples:**

**Go and make disciples of all the nations (people groups)**

## **Matthew 28:19**

**a. God gave the Holy Spirit to empower us to be His witnesses; Jerusalem to the uttermost parts of the earth!**

5. If we turn inward; if we don't reach the lost; if we don't make disciples; we've been disconnected from our roots.

We need to re-imagine our walk with Jesus; we need to reconnect with our roots; We need to "go radical"!

### **III. Conclusion**

#### **A. Review**

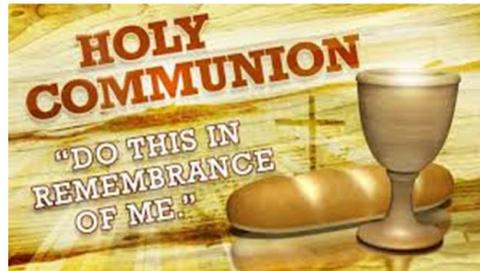
## **GOING RADICAL**

### **1 Radical response to GOD'S CALL**

### **2 Radical obedience to HIS LORDSHIP**

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#### **B. Communion/Altar Call**



Rev 5:2-5

**2** And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" **3** And no one in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book, or to look into it. **4** And I *began* to weep greatly, because no one was found worthy to open the book, or to look into it; **5**

and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."