

Week #12: BORDER CROSSING

1. GOAL: RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL TO CROSS OUR OWN "BORDER"

2. MILESTONES

- a. "Are we there yet?"
- b. We know where we've come, where we are going, and how to get there, but—what now?

3. THE "BORDER"

- a. Country borders today are not the same as in Abraham's time.
- b. Abraham had to cross into faith for his "border crossing."
- c. Genesis 12:1-4 makes Abraham's border crossing seem easy.
- d. Abraham didn't know where he was going.
 - i. 1 John 1:1-3
 - ii. Abraham's promised land was his relationship with God.

4. "BORDER CROSSING" SIGN HAS MANY MEANINGS AND IMPLICATIONS

- a. Why should I cross the border? Hebrews 11: 14-16
- b. It implies a journey and perhaps hard work. Hebrews 12:3-6

- c. A new set of milestones will appear, but
 - i. it **won't** be about overcoming obstacles
 - ii. it **will** be about obtaining the graces, gifts, and the "blessings" God promised to Abraham.
- d. Momentary stumbles will happen, but God teaches us how to walk.

5. DEBUNKING THE OTHER VOICES WE HEAR

- a. Frustration and fear seem to be our greatest enemies.
- b. The true narrative is God is Good!
- c. When you "cross the border":
 - i. you become who you ought to be and know how to love everything better.
 - ii. you gain control and live in peace.
 - iii. you realize the adventure on the other side is endless. John 3:9-10
 - iv. you don't care what others think of you.
 - v. you realize the lie of "you're not good enough" no longer applies. Jesus knows who you are and specifically calls **you!**
 - vi. you lose nothing by letting Christ in your life. (Pope Benedict XVI, April 24, 2005)
 - vii. it will not be too hard. 1 Corinthians 10:13
 - viii. you will receive eternal life!

6. WHAT'S NEXT?

- a. Cross the border
- b. Take the pierced hand of the Word made Flesh

QUOTES: "yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me."
Gal 2:20

"No! If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. No! Only in this friendship are the doors of life opened wide. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed. Only in this friendship do we experience beauty and liberation. And so, today, with great strength and great conviction, on the basis of long personal experience of life, I say to you, dear young people: Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ—and you will find true life. Amen." Pope Benedict, Inaugural Address, April 24, 2005

