



Title: Hold the Bus

Date: 3.7.10

Series: In the Beginning

Text: Gen 11:27-32

Synopsis: The great coach and commentator John Madden once said, “He’s a player you hold the bus for.” The context was a particularly difficult yet talented player for whom the coach would slightly bend the rules because of the player’s talent. He would “hold the bus” for this player. But every great coach knows you cannot “hold the bus” forever. Eventually the bus has to leave and the game has to start with or without the player no matter how great he might be.

God sees each of us as great players for whom he will “hold the bus”. Not because of our talent or strength. Actually, it’s the opposite. It’s because God knows we are not talented or strong and if we will acknowledge our weakness too, then God’s power begins to work through us. But eventually, we have to get on the bus. If we don’t, then another player gets our spot and God works through that player.

Terah, Abraham’s father, never got on the bus. Every indication is that God’s promise to make a great nation was given first to him. The task of writing the sacred account was left to him. He, like Abraham, also had a miraculous birth (Abraham himself was born to Terah when he was more than 130 years old). He, again like his son Abraham, was told to leave Ur of the Chaldeans, but he never quite got there. He stopped at Haran, perhaps hoping to finish the journey later in his life. But he never got around to it. God held the bus for another 75 years, until Terah died, and then the assignment was given to Abraham.

How tragic to go through one’s whole life and never get on the bus. God’s mercy endures forever, but inevitably, his redemptive purposes have to move forward with or without you. Are you gonna miss the game ‘cause you never got on the bus?