


The Life of Faith: Starting Out

Genesis 12:1-20

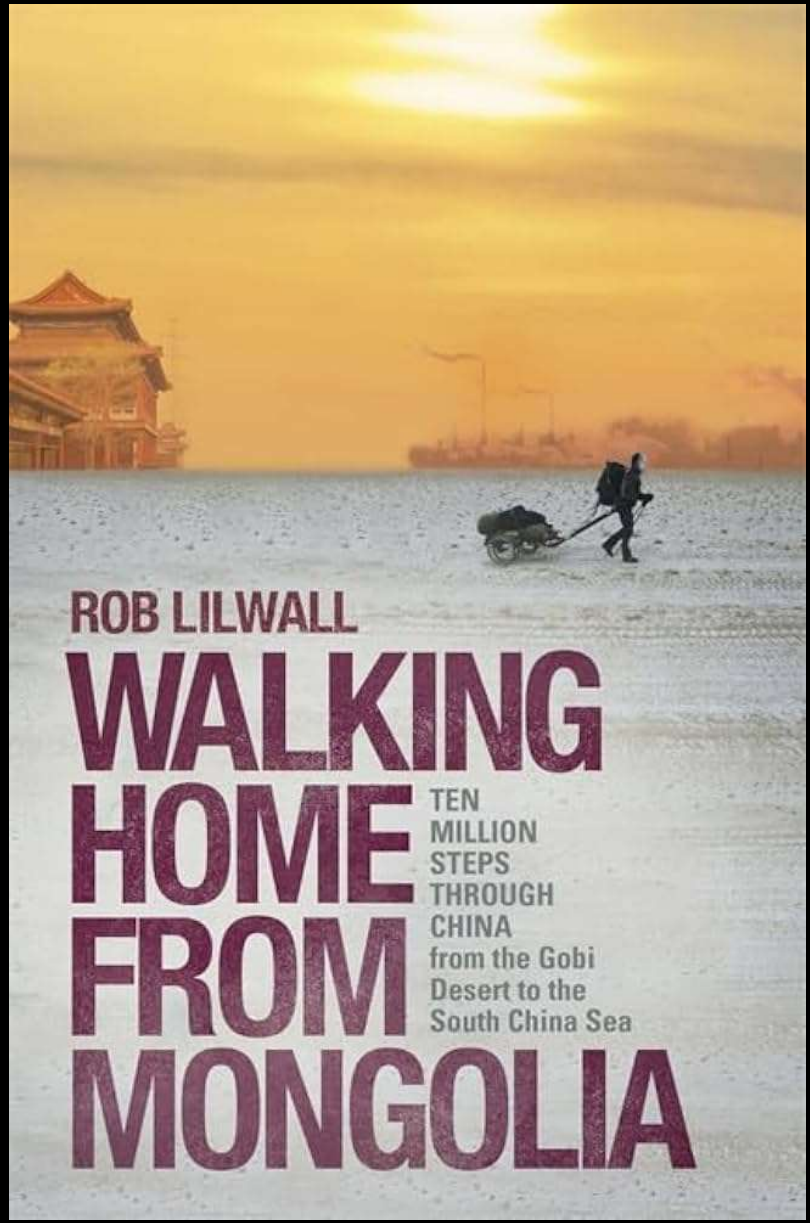
Slides from John Percival's sermon at the morning service
Sunday 12th May 2024



A journey of a
thousand miles
begins with
a single step.

-Lao Tzu

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ROB LILWALL

**WALKING
HOME
FROM
MONGOLIA**

TEN
MILLION
STEPS
THROUGH
CHINA
from the Gobi
Desert to the
South China Sea

“Standing outside the rundown hotel under a crisp blue sky, I hoist my rucksack onto my back, pick up my brand-new walking poles, and hurriedly put on my gloves. The frozen air cuts my lungs. It is only 14th November but it is still -10 degrees C.”

Rob Lilwall

“Silence hangs in the air for a moment. So, this is it, our start line in the emptiness. After the months of planning, there is no more waiting, no more preparing. I take a deep breath, and lean forward. We bump off the asphalt and onto the brown earth. The journey of ten million steps has begun.”

Rob Lilwall



1. God's call is unexpected (v1a)

Genesis 12v1

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

Acts 7v2-4

² The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Harran. ³ 'Leave your country and your people,' God said, 'and go to the land I will show you.' ⁴ "So he left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Harran. After the death of his father, God sent him to this land where you are now living.

Joshua 24v2

Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.

Titus 3v5

he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy

2. God's call is radical (v1b-3)

Genesis 12v1

“Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

2. God's call is radical (v1b-3)

- With respect to the **past**
- With respect to the **future**

Genesis 12v2-3

² “I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

Psalm 29v11

The LORD gives strength to his people;
the LORD blesses his people with peace.

Psalm 29v11

The LORD gives strength to his people;
the LORD blesses his people with peace.

Psalm 139-9-10

⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

“I belong to a faith, at the heart of which is the claim that I am completely loved, and which also calls me to live courageously as a pilgrim.”

Rob Lilwall



3. God's call is to be obeyed (v4-9)

Genesis 12v4-5

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

Hebrews 11v8

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

3. God's call is to be obeyed (v4-9)

- In spite of our **age**
- In the midst of our **culture**

Galatians 3v7-9

⁷ Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. ⁸ Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” ⁹ So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.