

We have been following Abram around for a few chapters now, several years of his life at this point.

We see that in good times and bad, through famine and testing, trusting and failing, Abram has an attitude of worship. This has been rather striking to me and I hope that it causes you to evaluate your own relationship with the Lord. How do I respond to these things in my life?

As the Bible's paramount example of faith, we should look to Abraham and see whether our faith resembles his, recognizing the fact that though his walk was not without fault he continued to go back to God and worship in all circumstances.

Genesis 14:1 And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations, ² that they made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). ³ All these joined together in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). ⁴ Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

⁵ In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings that *were* with him came and attacked the Rephaim in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh Kiriathaim, ⁶ and the Horites in their mountain of Seir, as far as El Paran, which *is* by the wilderness. ⁷ Then they turned back and came to En Mishpat (that *is*, Kadesh), and attacked all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who dwelt in Hazezon Tamar.

⁸ And the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that *is*, Zoar) went out and joined together in battle in the Valley of Siddim ⁹ against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of nations, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against five. ¹⁰ Now the Valley of Siddim *was full of* asphalt pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled; *some* fell there, and the remainder fled to the mountains. ¹¹ Then they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way. ¹² They also took Lot, Abram's brother's son who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

- Lot reaps a little of what he has sown

- **Paul tells the Galatians 6:7** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. ⁹And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- **Apparently here is the comparison between Abram and Lot**
 - We mentioned last time that Lot was living by what he thought would bring him the best life and yet he put himself right in the middle of trouble.
 - Your Best Life Now Theology?
 - Others wanted the same thing he did and were more powerful to get it.

Genesis 14:13 Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they *were* allies with Abram. ¹⁴ Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained *servants* who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵ He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which *is* north of Damascus. ¹⁶ So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people. ¹⁷ And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that *is*, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who *were* with him.

- Abram goes after Lot with a small army and manages to retrieve him and all of his people and goods. There is a pretty serious act of faith on the part of Abram.
 - **I want you to notice something.** Abram doesn't pray and ask "God, should I go and rescue my nephew Lot?" He just goes on and does what is right.
 - **After a bit of a lecture on God's will and how we should live in it James tell us in James 4:17**

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

- I remember once I greatly angered a young person by quoting this verse.
 - **DETAILS**
- Last time we spoke of doing what is right in the sense of dealing honestly.
- Today we will take it one step further. If I am aware of a need and I don't meet it, if it is within my power, I am in sin.
- **1 John 3:16** By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. ¹⁷ But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?
¹⁸ My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. ¹⁹ And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.
 - The Apostle John says, "Do you want to be sure that you really are a believer? You can know by how you respond to the needs of others."
 - God has responded to our need by providing Himself as the sacrifice for our sins. Redeeming us from certain destruction.
 - John tells us that if we grasp that, we will have to reach out to the needs around us and meet them in a similar way.
 - Abram was willing to sacrifice himself and his servants in order to redeem Lot and his family from their own form of certain destruction.
 - Abram even took it one further and refused to accept any reward for what he had done as we shall see.

Genesis 14:18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he *was* the priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said:

"Blessed be Abram of God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth;

²⁰ And blessed be God Most High,
Who has delivered your enemies into your hand."
And he gave him a tithe of all.

- **Again Abram Worships!**
- **Rather than take, he gives a tithe to Melchizedek, a priest of God Most High.**

Genesis 14:21 Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself."

²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, ²³ that I *will take* nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that *is* yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich'— ²⁴ except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion."

- Again Abram relies upon God for his sustenance
- **He has learned what Moses says, as he speaks to Israel in Deuteronomy 8:6 and tells them;** "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, ¹² lest—*when* you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell *in them*; ¹³ and *when* your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; ¹⁴ when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; ¹⁵ who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, *in which were* fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; ¹⁶ who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end— ¹⁷ then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.'

¹⁸ **"And you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may**

establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.

Abram had done what was right and God had blessed him for it. He also had understood that taking a reward for doing what is right is not how God blesses us.

We always hope that when we find the wallet with money in it and return it that we will be rewarded by the owner of the wallet. Abram knew that it is better to be rewarded by God Himself.

And so we see today that Abram grasped a couple of important principles.

- Even though people do stupid things, if we know the Lord, it is still our responsibility to help them if it is within our power.
- Even though we are comfortable, sometimes we need to step outside of that comfort and go help someone and just trust God that He will accomplish His purpose in it.
 - Holding our possessions and claiming the fact that they are mine rather than helping someone in need indicates that I do not know the Lord in a real way!
- When God uses us to help someone, He gets the credit and the glory. Good deeds are not our way of getting rewards.
 - We do what is right because it is right.