

***An Expository
Study of the Book
of Genesis***



Chapter 14

September 21, 2011

Introduction

Sermon Titles:

***Last Week: A Lot
to Lose***

***This Week: A Lot
to Gain***

Observation

In the midst of a famine, Abraham left Canaan and went into Egypt. By doing so, he began a journey into sin.

The Parallel

Like Abraham, we often find ourselves in the midst of crisis situations, and we make decisions motivated by fear instead of faith.

In Genesis 14...

...Abraham is on a journey back to God. The only problem is that often when we choose to come back to God, our sin follows us home.

Returning to God

- ***Step 1: Make the decision to return to God***
- ***Step 2: Realize how past sins affect our lives***
- ***Step 3: Prevent sin from taking a foothold in our lives.***

Genesis 14...

*...is a part of Scripture
written to help us
accomplish step 3 in
the process of
returning to God.*

First Outline

***The Sacking of
Sodom and the
Loss of Lot
(Genesis 14:1-12)***

Four kings...

...Chedorlaomer, King of Elam (Iran), who seemed to be the most dominant, had forced five other kings into subjection.

The five kings...

... in subjection included the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah. They paid tribute for 12 years, decided not to pay in year 13, and the four kings came to collect in year 14.

Even though the...

...four eastern kings were at a numerical disadvantage, they easily defeated the five southern kings. They could not allow the revolt to go unpunished. Others would be watching.

Why would the...

...writer interrupt his story about Abraham to tell us about the political struggles between secular ruling authorities?

The Answer...

- **...no matter what incident occurs in human history, there is always a spiritual component. God is always, always involved.**

The key issue...

- ...from a spiritual perspective happens in verse 12. *“They also took Lot, Abram’s nephew...”*

Key Point

- **The events described in 14:12 began with Lot's decision in 13:10-11**

Lot's Choices...

- **He was interested in the good life. He had no interest in a godly life. Lot found it easy to live among immoral people. He loved the Sodom lifestyle.**

Lessons

- Every event in history has a spiritual component
- Every decision we make has consequences

Lessons

- We may not be able to avoid living among immoral people but we do not have to choose an immoral lifestyle.

Outline

*The Rescue of Lot
by His Uncle
Abram (Genesis
14:13-16)*

A Moment of Pause

- Lot got just what he deserved
- Abram was greatly outnumbered
- The chances of success were not in Abram's favor

Key Observation

- **Everything that Lot had, including the choice to live in Sodom, was the result of Abraham's sin. Abraham's sin had followed him home.**

Abraham...

- ...incurred the obligation to rescue his nephew because of two reasons. He did not leave him at home in the first place. And, he made him rich by his disobedience in Egypt.

Outline

*The King of Sodom
and the King of
Salem (Genesis
14:17-24)*

There is...

- ...perhaps no test that God gives us that is greater than the test of success

There is...

- **The King of Sodom comes out to meet Abraham at the same time as the King of Salem (Melchizedek) His name means righteousness.**

Melchizedek...

- **...focuses Abraham's attention in the right place. He has completed his journey back to God.**

Genesis 14...

- ...provides us with a divine commentary on the decisions made in chapter 13. Lot chose Sodom and self-interest, and nearly lost everything because of it. Abram chose to pursue peace and thereby was given a military victory. Lot relied on himself and became a slave. Abram trusted God and become a prominent figure among his brethren. How different our decisions appear in the light of history. History weighs the decisions of men.

Abram chose...

- **...to pursue peace and thereby was given a military victory. Lot relied on himself and became a slave. How different our decisions appear in the light of history. History weighs the decisions of men.**

God's Sovereignty

- **This passage also reminds us of the sovereignty of God in the affairs of men. God is in control of history. The events which appear to be only secular often have a much deeper spiritual purpose and significance.**

Melchizedek...

- **...should remind us that there are no spiritual “Lone Rangers”. There are times when we feel as though no one else is keeping the faith, but such impressions are self-deception**

Final Lessons

- When it comes to the matter of giving and receiving, the most important issue is the glory of God.

Final Lessons

- **Lot's rescue provides us with a beautiful illustration of the salvation of God.**

Final Lessons

- Lot was unable to free himself from bondage. Abram, at great personal risk, won his release. Abram rescued Lot from the consequences of his own sin.