

From Creation to New Creation

Genesis 14:1-24

"The King of Peace"— July 3, 2022



Introduction

Rightly assessing the value of something is important. It is important for life. It is important for the state of our soul. ([Luke 18:18-30](#)) The world's economy is different than God's economy. How can we avoid making a deadly calculation about what is worth giving our life to? How can we choose what is most valuable instead of being deceived into living for what the world values?

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

1. Don't underestimate the enemy. Vs. 1-12
2. Don't underestimate your God. Vs. 13-24

Read & Discuss

1) Read vs. 1 - 12

Here, we see the first war that is recorded in scripture. All of this took place in Abram's backyard. Put yourself in Abram's shoes for a minute. How would you feel if you are Abram? Most likely, you are a little nervous, afraid, overwhelmed, intimidated.

In chapter 13, we see that Lot chooses the land near Sodom. He ends up living in Sodom. He underestimated the enemy. His sinful shortcut would cost him everything - his home, his freedom, and his loved ones. He became a prisoner of war. Pause and imagine his regret. You can gain the whole world, but if you end up in Hell - you have not gained anything. ([Luke 9:25](#))

One thing that Genesis 14 teaches the Christian today is that we are at war!! We are fighting a spiritual war against sin that dwells in us. ([Ephesians 6: 10-18](#)) The pressure to sin comes from our flesh, the world that hates God and Satan himself. ([James 1:13-15](#)) What are some ways you can fight spiritual battles? Do you have a brother or sister in Christ with whom you can share your struggles and be accountable?

There is a second battle in this text - a war for the heart to man. Will you trust God and what He thinks is best for you, or will you trust yourself? We tend to take physical threats seriously. When it comes to spiritual warfare, we underestimate it. Like Lot, we see the benefits that the world has to offer so we downplay the threat. We move toward "Sodom" thinking it won't affect us. ([2 Peter 2:11](#)) Has there been a time in your life when the allure of the world has caused you to downplay the threat to your spiritual life? What were some of the results?

Lot serves as a warning - we need to flee sin and not flirt with it. If we don't, our hearts will become hardened toward it. You have to be violent toward your sin. "Be killing sin or it will be killing you." -John Owen

Additional Reading: 2 Corinthians 10

2) Read vs. 13 - 24

So far, the kings of the East were undefeated. In spite of all this, Abram goes to war. He defeats the unstoppable foe. He gets everything back. Lot was in this mess because he chose to live in Sodom. Why did Abram rescue Lot? Moses refers to Lot as "Abram's kinsman" (his brother). Abram knew that he was "his brother's keeper." He risked his life to rescue his kinsman, Lot.

This is what it means to be a church member! We are family. If we make a mess of our life with sinful, foolish choices, we have others members with whom we are in covenant relationship who should come a rescue us. We must be intentional in looking out for one another. We have to ask each other how we are really doing,

carry each other's burdens, and be honest with each other. In what ways are you being intentional about getting to know other members of the church?

Lot benefits from the promise of God to Abram by God's grace. Left to ourselves, we are Lot! We have lived for ourselves which has left us slaves to sin. We are spiritual dead. The only way to make sense of Jesus' death is to see and confess our sin. We have to see how helpless we are. We cannot keep all of God's laws all of the time without failing. The good news is that where we have failed, Jesus succeeded. We are connected to Jesus by faith and not by works.

Sometimes we face our greatest dangers right after our greatest victories. The two kings coming to Abram in vs. 17-24 represent a choice. It is another battle - a battle for Abram's heart. Abram is being tempted to take what the world had to offer right now. The King of Sodom's deal reminds us of the deal that Satan offered Jesus in [Matthew 4](#). Abram doesn't take the deal.

We may not have the king of Sodom knocking on our door, but we have the world knocking at our door offering sinful shortcuts. Sodom's bargain is when the world offers us something that only God can give (peace, contentment, joy, etc.). It is designed to belittle and underestimate God. Our enemy isn't stupid. He is sly. He gets us to incrementally make compromises. Then, we begin to see God as a little less important. If the enemy can get us to not take God and His word seriously, Satan has won.

What about you? What bargain has the world offered you that looks really good? Don't underestimate your God!! Abram didn't. How? Abram understood that victory over the enemy came from God alone and true blessing comes from God alone. This helped him to sniff out the lies of the King of Sodom. All that the King of Sodom offered wasn't his to give anyway. God is the Possessor of Heaven and Earth.

God's promises are unfailing. In spite of all the threats to God's promise that we have seen so far, nothing will thwart God's plan. Abram may have been tempted to think that faith would work. It felt like a battle to believe. Have you felt a barrage of problems this week? Has it been difficult to pray? Are you tempted to wonder if God is listening? God is listening. Prayer makes a difference. God is a loving Father who gives good gifts to His children. What promise of God are you struggling to believe today?

True and lasting peace is not found in the absence of trials, but in the presence of God. Believe; trust; wait. God is our Deliverer. He is our Help. The more we love Him, the more we will see what truly has value.

Additional Reading: Galatians 3:10-14; Isaiah 37-38; James 4; Psalm 42

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to Romans 1:16-17 "Unashamed of the Gospel"
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