

## Sermon Discussion - 11 June 2023

Read Genesis 14:1-24

### **Getting Started** *Sharing from personal experience*

It would be fair to say that Abram's nephew, Lot, was in the wrong place at the wrong time; luckily, he had powerful relatives who fought for him.

Can you remember a time or situation where someone close to you defended you? Was there ever a time when you felt lost or hopeless only to have a person come to your rescue? Describe the situation.

### **Observation** *Discovering the context*

In Genesis 14, just prior to the king of Sodom's offer of worldly riches, Melchizedek, the king of righteousness, encourages Abram concerning the true and living God. With a fresh reminder of the nature and promise of the Lord, the appeal from a pagan king was refused and Abram's faith was upheld.

- Where in your life do you encounter "fresh reminders" of the nature and promises of the Lord?
- What impact does the neglect of these encounters have on your life? Look up Joshua 1:8; Hebrews 10:25; Psalm 1:1-3; 119:9-11.

### **Interpretation** *Discovering the meaning*

1. Why did Abram go after Lot? Couldn't he have said, "He made his choice to live in Sodom, now he can live with the consequences." Did Abram really have an obligation to help a fallen kinsman? More to the point, when we see someone who has fallen or has been taken captive spiritually, do we have any obligation toward them?
2. Are we our brother's keeper (Genesis 4:9)? Read Galatians 6:1-3; Luke 15:4-6. What do these passages instruct us to do?
3. Just as God showed his faithfulness to Abram to defeat seemingly larger and more powerful enemies, today, God shows his faithfulness to us. As Christians trust God today, he is faithful to deliver us in our own sort of warfare – spiritual not physical. Look up 1Corinthians 10:13; 2Corinthians 10:4-6; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1John 4:4. Which of those promises or instructions resonate as most meaningful to you?

4. People often forget God in the midst of success. Abram didn't forget God. He raised his hand to "The Most High God" and worshiped him. What are some practical ways you can remember the Lord in the midst of your success? How can you "raise your hand to the Lord" in the presence of the lost and give glory to God?

**Application** *Putting knowledge into practice*

- A major concern in Genesis 14 is the people of God must frame their life so that, for all their success, joy, comfort, and prosperity, they depend on God. Think/pray for 30 seconds asking God, "Is there an area in my life where I am depending on my strength more than Yours?" What practical ways can you trust God more in this area?
- Try memorising Genesis 14:22-23.  
*But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have lifted my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.'"*
- How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?