

Blessing that Complicates Faith

Genesis 13–14

An Expositional Sermon by Dr. Bradley Rushing

Big Idea

God proves Himself faithful when His people refuse to hold what He alone should give.

I. Faith does not try to secure what God has already promised. (13:1–18)

- Abram returns from Egypt to the place of the altar and begins again with worship.
- God is still blessing Abram, but that blessing creates conflict between Abram's herdsmen and Lot's.
- The land cannot support both families, and strife breaks out.
- Abram has every right to choose first, but he lets Lot decide.
- Lot chooses by sight. He sees fertile land and moves toward Sodom.
- Abram chooses by faith. He trusts God to provide what God has promised.
- After Lot leaves, God reaffirms the promise and tells Abram to look in every direction because the land will belong to his descendants.
- Abram responds the only way faith can respond. He builds an altar and worships the Lord.

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II. Love does not abandon people when their choices trap them. (14:1–16)

- Lot's decision to live near Sodom pulls him into a war between kings.
- The invading armies defeat the cities of the valley and carry Lot away as a captive.
- Abram hears what has happened and gathers his trained men to pursue the kings.
- He risks his own safety to rescue someone whose choices created the danger.

- Abram defeats the armies and brings Lot and the captives home.
- Faith does not stand at a distance and say, “You made your bed.”
- Faith moves toward those trapped in trouble.
- Abram’s rescue of Lot points forward to Christ, the greater Rescuer who came to deliver people captive to sin.

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III. Faith does not take credit for what God alone has done. (14:17–24)

- After the victory, two kings meet Abram.
- Melchizedek, priest of God Most High, blesses Abram and gives God the credit for the victory.
- Abram immediately worships by giving a tenth of everything.
- The king of Sodom offers Abram the wealth from the battle.
- Abram refuses because he does not want Sodom claiming responsibility for what God has done.
- Abram understands that the victory belongs to the Lord alone.
- Melchizedek also points forward to Jesus, the true Priest-King who brings bread and blessing and secures salvation for His people.


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