

START HERE #18: GENESIS 14:8-20 THE FRIENDS OF GOD WORSHIP GOD

WILD STORY – ABRAHAM TOOK LOT – PROMISED LAND – CONFLICT – LOT PICKED SODOM – Saw with eyes, pitched his tent, sat in the gate judge

Minding his business – geopolitical chaos around him – NEPHEW – FAMILY ANNOYING
CHOOSES right thing – **SURROUNDS LOYAL (BATTLE)** - trusts in God (v.22 – OATH)

- Outnumbered – strategic risk – GOD GIVES THE VICTORY – **WILD CHARACTER**

Abraham vs Lot: walked by faith/walked by sight - looked for eternal city/looked for a fleshly city - generous/greedy worldly,

MP: Abraham responds to God's worthiness and faithfulness by worshiping Him.

Different ways Abraham worshiped: altar, righteousness, believed God, GAVE POSSESS.

GIVING IS WORSHIP

Not perceived worship – tax write off, obligation, pressure, perceived, get good

- Tithe – 10th: Cain and Abel, Abraham, Jacob (learned legacy)

Genesis 28:22 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, ²¹so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God. ²²And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

- Codified in the law (Numbers 26%) expanded through the gospel of grace

New Testament doesn't limit giving to a tenth because grace has a greater impact than the law and sets us at liberty to be more generous not less generous.

o Pastor: how much should I given 10th – great place to start

- Spiritual Discipline: not have too's but want too's - NEW (when you give...)
- Reveals Heart: Do the lay up (easy unless) – where your treasure is

EASY TO WORSHIP GOD THROUGH GIVING BECAUSE HE IS WORTHY

NO ORDINARY CHARACTER

Hebrews 7:2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "**king of righteousness,**" and then also king of Salem, meaning "**king of peace,**" ³without father, without mother, **without genealogy,** having **neither beginning of days nor end of life,** but made like the **Son of God, remains a priest continually.**

GOD MEETS HIM AFTER THIS EXTRAORDINARY VICTORY - CHRISTOPHANY

- BLESSES HIM – ACKNOWLEDGES 1 TRUE GOD – ABRAHAM GIVES

Abraham wasn't giving to a man, an institution, or a cause, no one to see, GROUPPLS

ACT OF WORSHIP

Object of your giving is the most important aspect.

- Not yourself (good feelings, worth or value) Not people (good perception or reputation) – not with strings attached or expectations to fulfill...
 - o Worthship – the word – expressing value of the object worshiped

Old English: weorthscipe 'worthiness, acknowledgment of worth'

What you worship reflects what you attribute highest value to. money, music,

MAJI – what is this gold, frankincense and myrrh – nothing com CHRIST – **THE GIFT**
When God reveals His worthiness, it brings everything else into the right perspective.

- WHY EXTRAVAGANT EXAMPLES: **widows mite, Mary's oil**

Seeing God's worth changes our perspective from this is all that I have to He is all that I have.

You're worthy of it all song – WHAT IS IT ALL?

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever.

Amen

IT'S EASY TO WORSHIP GOD THROUGH GIVING BECAUSE OF ALL HE HAS GIVEN

IT'S ALL GOD: God who made Abraham - protected Abraham - blessed Abraham's life

- ON HIS WAY BACK FROM LUZ – Outnumbered, strategic risks – **GOD DID IT**

Maybe even a BAILOUT - What LOT RU HOLDING ONTO – COST – THISISMYLOT

- o **RICH YOUNG RULER – POSSESSIONS POSSESSED HIM**

GENEROSITY REFLECTS OUR EXPERIENCE – little experience little generosity

Luke 8:47 Therefore I say to you, her sins, *which are many*, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, *the same loves little.*"

The gospel eliminates all boundaries in our giving We give because He gave.

- **AMAZING BLESSINGS IN GENEROUS WORSHIP**

It's more blessed to give than to receive

2 Corinthians 9:6 He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

We don't beg for money are constantly push because God's not broke. We provide opportunities.

- **Crypto, stocks, commodities: beyond normal giving – church plant, bldg. project, ppl**

What you hold onto can end up holding you back from God's best. OPEN HANDS