

Grateful Giving

Hebrews 7

11-30-14

1. Read Genesis 14:13-24 to read about Lot's rescue story. After Abraham returned from battle, what did the King of Sodom offer him? Why did Abraham reject it? What can we deduce about Abraham's faith here?
2. Abraham gives one tenth of everything to Melchizedek (Gen. 14:20). Likewise, Melchizedek blesses Abraham. He reminds Abraham that God is the one who went with him. Read Psalm 121 for a description of the name Melchizedek uses for God. What promises does God make? What specific attributes of God are listed and why do you think these are important? How does Psalm 121 encourage you?
3. Abraham gives to God because of God's incredible generosity to him. We are especially reminded of this when we partake of the Lord's Supper. We have been blessed by a greater priest than Melchizedek. Read Prov. 11:24-25; Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; and 1 Timothy 6:17-19. How do these verses, along with Abraham's story, influence your view of generosity? What is God's promise to those who are generous?
4. It is clear from Hebrews that Abraham is a grateful giver. Read Luke 7:36-50 to see another example of a grateful giver. How does gratitude fuel generosity? The opposite of gratitude is ungratefulness. How does an ungrateful heart fuel entitlement? Has this ever been a temptation for you? How can you remain grateful for all God has done for you? (See Psalm 77:12).
5. Close your time together by praying and reading Psalm 136 aloud. Ask God to give you eyes of faith to see how generous he has been and how much he has provided for you. After you have done that, make a decision, like Abraham, of what you want to give back to God to say thank you!