

The Problem Of Having A Lot

The Recap:

Genesis 1-13

The Battle:

Genesis 14:1-12

The Rescue:

Genesis 14:13-16, Proverbs 21:31

- ▶ Hebrew =
- ▶ Use your **brain**, do your **best**, accept what **happens**.

The Visitor:

Genesis 14:17-24, Hebrews 5-7, Psalm 110:4, 2 Chronicles 26:16-26

Melchizedek:

The Point:

- ▶ If I am a Lot:
- ▶ If I am an Abram:

Food for Thought

For the week of December 9, 2012

(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

1. Staying as far away from Sodom as we can get is something we all know we should do. But there are times when we find ourselves “camping real close to Sodom” in an area of our lives. Fortunately, God has given us some spiritual practices that can help decrease the temptation for doing that and at the same time strengthen us for consistent obedience. How might the following passages speak to this?

Psalm 119:9-11

How can a young man keep his way pure?

By living according to your word.

[10] I seek you with all my heart;

do not let me stray from your commands.

[11] I have hidden your word in my heart

that I might not sin against you. [NIV]

1 Corinthians 15:33

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." [NIV]

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

[NIV]

2 Timothy 2:22

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. [NIV]

What are some specific applications and ways to put these verses into action? Have you ever found one to be more helpful than the other? Is there one you feel you need to apply in your life right now?

2. Abram had 318 men already trained for combat when he needed them to rescue Lot. He had planned ahead for such a contingency. Such preparation wasn't considered to be contrary to trusting God for his protection. How do the following verses help paint a balanced picture of what's our part and God's part in the planning process?

Proverbs 14:8

The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways,
but the folly of fools is deception. [NIV]

Proverbs 14:15

A simple man believes anything,
but a prudent man gives thought to his steps. [NIV]

Proverbs 16:9

In his heart a man plans his course,
but the Lord determines his steps. [NIV]

Proverbs 19:21

Many are the plans in a man's heart,
but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails. [NIV]

Proverbs 21:5

The plans of the diligent lead to profit
as surely as haste leads to poverty. [NIV]

Proverbs 21:31

The horse is made ready for the day of battle,
but victory rests with the Lord. [NIV]

3. Although Jesus' death provided for the forgiveness of our sins, we still face an ongoing struggle with sin and our sinful nature. What insights about freedom from sin and our responsibility to fight it do you see in the following verses?

Galatians 5:13-15

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. [14] The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." [15] If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. [NIV]

Romans 6:11-14

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. [12] Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. [13] Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. [14] For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. [NIV]

John 15:4-5

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

[5] "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. [NIV]