

FAITHFUL ONE

ABRAHAM'S COVENANT OF FRAGILE FAITH

Part 3: The Mysterious Melchizedek

APPETIZER: *The Way We Fight*

- Our *general* is Jesus (Eph 4:8; Col 2:13-15; 2 Tim 2:3).
- Our *armour* is spiritual (Eph 6:14-17).
- Our *enemy* is supernatural (Eph 6:10-13).
- Our *tactics* are love, evangelism, and prayer (Eph 6:18-19).
- Our *goal* is partnering with Jesus to rescue people who have been kidnapped and enslaved (Mark 10:45; Col 1:13).

DINE IN: *Melchizedek & The Messiah*

Genesis 14; Hebrews 7

Lessons illustrated in this story:

1. We should not fight with family (Gen 13:8-9), but we should fight for family (Gen 14:14). This includes both our spiritual and biological family (Matt 12:50; 1 Timothy 5:8).
2. Although we put family first, as we go through life we should help others in need (Gen 14:16).
3. Melchizedek is a type of Christ (Gen 14:18-20; Heb 7).
4. Tithing (giving away 10%) is a voluntary sign of respect, honour, and gratitude that transcends the Law of Moses (Gen 14:20; 28:22; Heb 7).
5. Abraham represents all Israel, especially the Levitical priests. Therefore through Abraham tithing to Melchizedek, the entire Hebrew religious system pays honour to Christ! (Hebrews 7:9-10)
6. As far as it depends on us, we should avoid uniting ourselves with unethical and unbelieving people (Gen 14:24; 2 Cor 6:14-18).
7. Neither should we hold non-believers to our own standards (Gen 14:24; Matt 5:1-2; 1 Cor 5:9-12).

TITHING AND THE NEW COVENANT...

1. **TODDLER STAGE:** *Why should we practice tithing?*
 - Because the Bible says so! (Malachi 3:7-10)
2. **YOUNG ADULT STAGE:** *Why should we stop tithing?*
 - Because we are free from the Law!
 - Because we are not Israel!
 - Because we don't want to be legalists!
 - Because we just want to help people and change the world – without giving to our local church.
3. **MATURE ADULT STAGE:** *Why should we go beyond tithing?*
 - Because *Grace* leads to *Gratitude* which leads to *Generosity*.
 - Because the early Church went far beyond a tithe to radical generosity.
 - Because the Law set **a minimum** standard.
 - Because the Holy Spirit in us encourages **more than the minimum**.
 - Because we see the local church as God's primary way of changing the world and we want to be a part of that.

THE MEETING HOUSE & TITHING...

At The Meeting House we encourage **tithing (giving 10% of our income) to our General Fund** as a FIRST STEP toward responsibly supporting our church family and developing *radical generosity as a spiritual discipline*. This is not a rule. This is about **loving each other as family** and taking responsibility for paying the bills. Beyond tithing, we encourage and anticipate growing generosity expressed in giving to our **Growth and Compassion funds**, as well as radical generosity in our day-to-day lives.

TAKE OUT: *Family First!*

Matthew 12:49-50; Luke 14:26; 1 Timothy 5:8

One way I can serve my biological and/or spiritual family this week is:

NEXT WEEK... We continue our series on Abraham

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Review this week's sermon. Talk about what most encouraged or perplexed you, what new things you learned or old things that were confirmed.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read **Genesis 14**. (It should be fun hearing each other try to pronounce all the names. Or just pick it up from **verse 12** onward.)
 - a. What verse or idea that stands out to you the most? Why?
 - b. Though we are not likely to be faced with the radical situation of a relative being kidnapped, we often encounter situations that threaten our emotional, financial, sexual, and sometimes physical safety. Brainstorm ways you can “fight” like Jesus in your response to: i) a shouting family member, ii) street or workplace harassment, iii) a suing work partner. Or other scenarios you think of. Use examples from your own life if possible.
 - c. Do you think Abraham tithing to Melchizedek should have any bearing on how we handle our finances today?
 - d. Melchizedek was a king of righteousness and a king of peace and also a priest of God. How is each of these positions a reflection of Jesus?
 - e. In verse 21-23, Abram refuses to align himself financially with the King of Sodom. Are there any ways you are ethically intentional in how you align your loyalty, finances, and/or investments? How does the teaching of Jesus influence your financial decisions?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

3. Use your Huddle Questions and pay special attention to this one...
 - When have you served others and loved well (or missed opportunities to do so), including serving your church, investing time in your family, helping your friends, showing kindness to strangers, and loving your enemies?

August 20, 2017 // @bruxy

Quotes

Welcome to part 3 of our series about the faith of Abraham and the faithfulness of God.

In Genesis 14 we read about Abraham's encounter with the mysterious character called Melchizedek. Abraham and his men have won a war against a foreign army to rescue his kidnapped nephew, Lot. Then we read...

After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying,

**“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**And praise be to God Most High,
who delivered your enemies into your hand.”**

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

The author of the New Testament book of Hebrews comments on this saying...

This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything.

First, the name Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.”

Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.