

Sermon guide Feb 2, 2020  
Genesis 14:1-24

There are two kingdoms in conflict in this chapter: kingdom of God and kingdom of man

4 things we learn about the differences between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of man:

- 1) The kingdom of man is often consumed with petty squabbles
  - a) The kingdoms of man don't last
  - b) The Bible's perspective on our celebrities and politics is, "who cares?" There are more important and more eternal things to focus on.
- 2) It's hard to live in the kingdom of man without getting swept up in its troubles
  - a) Lot gets kidnapped due to being in Sodom
  - b) We like to think we're above being influenced by our surroundings but it seeps in unnoticed
  - c) Galatians 6:1 - restore the one who is trapped and watch out for yourself
- 3) The two kingdoms are marked by completely different values
  - a) Satan is a master of imitation
  - b) One kingdom wants to bless and the other wants to take
  - c) Abram's gift to Melchizidek declares his allegiance to God
- 4) At some point we have to decide which kingdom we belong to
  - a) It's either/or, which is hard because we like to have options
  - b) "The god of open options" can distract us and cause us to be stagnant

Reflect:

- 1) As you think over your life, in what ways is the kingdom of man seeping into your life? Or what ways is it trying? What "petty squabbles" threaten to take your attention?
- 2) How does "the God of open options" impact your Christian life? What stops you from being more single-focused in your attention on God?
- 3) In our relation to this world, we are not called to a "holy huddle." But we also need to avoid being assimilated into the ways of the world. As Romans 12:2 says, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." What areas of your life need this non-conformist emphasis? What areas need to be less huddled?

Study:

- 1) Compare Abram's actions in Gen 14:17-24 with Paul's perspective on taking money in 1 Cor 9:11-18. How do Abram and Paul seek to preserve the glory of God, as well as their own dependence on God, by their actions (support this with scripture)? What might this sort of thing look like for us today?

Pray:

- 1) **Pray scripture back to God:** Read over Psalm 19. Pay special attention to verse 14.

- 2) **Pray in accordance with your identity:** Remember that ultimately you are citizens of God's kingdom.
- 3) **Pray with God's redemptive purposes in mind:** As you pray, keep in mind that during this time of salvation, God has called us to be in the world but not of it, to be lights on a hill that point to Jesus.