

PC SERMON OUTLINE

Throughout Genesis 13 and 14, we notice the eternal perspective on life and finance possessed by Abram consistently contrasted with that of others. When God is our treasure, it changes our understanding of wealth, relationships, and stewardship.

Genesis 13:1–9

- Abram and Lot's possessions became so great that the land could no longer support them.
- The conflict wasn't simply about land or water—it revealed where each man's treasure was.
- **Abram possessed great wealth, but his wealth didn't possess him.**
- Abram chose peace over profit and gave Lot the first choice of the land.
- Abram trusted God to take care of his needs instead of fighting for what was already promised to him.

Abram valued his relationship with Lot more than the wealth he could obtain.

Genesis 13:10–18

- Lot looked around and chose what appeared most profitable.
- He pitched his tents near Sodom, minimizing the danger of living close to wickedness.
- His love of wealth drew him closer and closer to the influence of sin.
- Abram, meanwhile, rested in God's promise and built an altar to the Lord.

Difference in Perspective:

- **Lot looked for what benefited him most.**
- **Abram trusted the Lord to provide.**

Genesis 14:1–16

- Lot's worldly perspective eventually placed him in captivity.
- Abram responded by assembling his trained men and rescuing Lot.
- Abram had prepared long before the crisis came.
- God had blessed Abram with resources, and Abram faithfully stewarded those resources for God's purposes.
- Even after the conflict between them, Abram continued to value the relationship and rescue his nephew.

Abram's rescue of Lot reminds us of Christ's rescue of us when we least deserved it.

Genesis 14:17–24

Abram is approached by two kings upon his victory:

Melchizedek

- Abram was blessed by Melchizedek and gave a tenth of everything.
- Abram recognized that everything belonged to God before the Law ever commanded a tithe.

The King of Sodom

- Abram refused the riches of Sodom.
- He did not want anyone to say that Sodom had made Abram rich.
- Abram knew that every blessing came from the Lord.

God is the owner of everything, and He is our true treasure.

Eternal Perspectives on Stewardship

- God is the owner of everything.
- We are stewards of what God has given us.
- We are blessed to bless others.

Because Abram believed these truths:

- He valued relationships over wealth.
- He trusted God to provide.
- He stewarded God's resources well.
- He gave back to the Lord.
- He put God first in everything.

Response

Can the same be said of us today?

- Is God our true treasure?
- Do we trust Him to provide?
- Are we stewarding what He has entrusted to us?
- Does our perspective on wealth reflect that **God owns everything?**

PC SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Prioritizing Relationships Over Profit

Scripture: Genesis 13:8–9 (NIV)

"So Abram said to Lot, 'Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left.'"

Discussion Question: Abram was willing to take a potential financial loss by letting Lot choose the best land first, all for the sake of peace and relationship. When have you faced a situation where choosing what was right or maintaining a relationship came at a personal or financial cost? How did you handle it?

2. The Drift Toward Worldly Compromise

Scripture: Genesis 13:10, 12 (NIV)

"Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt... Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom."

Discussion Question: Lot chose his direction purely based on what looked most profitable, which eventually drew him into a dangerous environment. In our modern culture, what are some subtle ways we might "pitch our tents" closer to compromise or unhealthy environments for the sake of career advancement, status, or financial gain?

3. Stepping Up in Times of Crisis

Scripture: Genesis 14:14 (NIV)

"When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan."

Discussion Question: Abram didn't say "I told you so" when Lot got into trouble; instead, he was prepared and immediately used his resources to rescue him. How can we better prepare our lives, schedules, and finances so that we are ready to step up and help when a friend, family member, or neighbor hits a crisis?

4. Recognizing God as Our Provider

Scripture: Genesis 14:19–20 (NIV)

"...and he blessed Abram, saying, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praised be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.' Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything."

Discussion Question: Before any religious laws about tithing existed, Abram gave a tenth of his victory wealth to Melchizedek as an act of worship. What makes it challenging for us today to consistently

give back to God first, and how does regular giving help reshape our view of who actually owns what we have?

5. Protecting Your Testimony

Scripture: Genesis 14:22–23 (NIV)

"But Abram said to the king of Sodom, 'With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, "I made Abram rich."'"

Discussion Question: Abram refused the King of Sodom's rewards because he wanted God to get 100% of the credit for his success. Why is it important to be careful about where our blessings and promotions come from, and how can we ensure that God—not our own hustle or worldly compromises—gets the credit for our achievements?

6. Shifting to an Eternal Perspective

Scripture: Genesis 13:14–15 (NIV)

"The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, 'Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.'"

Discussion Question: Right after Abram gave up the first choice of land, God reminded him of the bigger, eternal promise. When you look at the final reflective questions of the sermon outline (*Is God our true treasure? Do we trust Him to provide?*), what is one practical area of your life or finances where you want to shift from a "Lot perspective" (temporary/profitable) to an "Abram perspective" (eternal/faithful)?

NP SERMON OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

Today we're continuing in our series through the life of Abram. God shows us what it looks like to live by faith, in a world that is constantly telling us to value the wrong things.

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The direction of your life is determined by what you treasure most.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 13 5 Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. 6 But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. 7 And quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. 8 So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

Abram could have said, "God promised me this land." Instead, Abram trusted God enough to let Lot choose.

If God is your greatest treasure, you will choose relationships over personal gain.

Philippians 2:3-4 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Genesis 13 10 Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. 11 So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: 12 Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom.

The problem wasn't what Lot saw; it was what Lot failed to see.

13 Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord.

Lot made his decision based on what looked best for his future, but God knew what would shape his heart.

The best-looking opportunity isn't always God's best opportunity.

If God is your greatest treasure, you will trust His perspective over the world's.

Genesis 13 14 The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. 15 All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. 16 I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted.

Abram gave away what looked like the best land, but God assured him, "My promise hasn't changed."

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Chapter 14 starts with a great battle, and Lot is taken prisoner.

Genesis 14 14 When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan. 15 During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. 16 He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.

Abram immediately put his own resources on the line: his men, his time, his wealth, and his safety.

Everything he had became a tool to help someone else...

If God is your greatest treasure, you'll use your possessions to love people.

Genesis 14 17 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)18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, 19 and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. 20 And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

As if God knew how easy it would have been for Abram to pat himself on the back and celebrate, He sends Melchizedek to remind him who won that battle and to worship God.

Genesis 14 21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself." 22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, 23 that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made Abram rich.' 24 I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me...

You see, Abram considered the wealth of Sodom a loss compared to the promises of God.

If God is your greatest treasure, you will choose God's promises over the world's riches.

What do your choices say about what you treasure?

Philippians 3:7-8 7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.

Jesus is the greatest treasure.

Will you follow him today?

The direction of your life is determined by what you treasure most.

NP SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Choosing Relationships Over Personal Gain

Scripture: Genesis 13:8–9 (NIV)

“So Abram said to Lot, ‘Let’s not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. Is not the whole land before you? Let’s part company. If you go to the left, I’ll go to the right; if you go to the right, I’ll go to the left.’”

Discussion Question: Abram chose to surrender his right to the best land to preserve his relationship with Lot, trusting that God would take care of him. When have you found it difficult to prioritize a relationship or peace over your own personal preferences or financial gain? How does knowing God is your ultimate provider change the way you handle conflicts over resources or recognition?

2. Worldly Appearances vs. Spiritual Reality

Scripture: Genesis 13:10–13 (NIV)

“Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord.”

Discussion Question: The outline notes that the problem wasn’t what Lot saw, but what he failed to see—he made a decision based entirely on outward appearances and potential profit. What are some practical ways we can evaluate new opportunities (like a job change, a move, or a major purchase) to ensure we are trusting God’s perspective rather than just chasing what looks best on paper?

3. Relying on God's Unchanging Promises

Scripture: Genesis 13:14–15 (NIV)

“The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, ‘Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.’”

Discussion Question: Right after Abram gave away the best-looking land, God immediately stepped in to reassure him that His promise had not changed. Can you share a time when you voluntarily gave something up or stepped out in faith, only to experience God's comfort, reassurance, or provision in a deeper way afterward?

4. Using Possessions to Love and Rescue Others

Scripture: Genesis 14:14–16 (NIV)

“When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan. During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. He recovered all the

goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people."

Discussion Question: When crisis struck, Abram immediately risked his safety, his men, and his wealth to rescue someone who had previously treated him unfairly. How can we shift our mindset so that we view our time, finances, and skills not just as assets to protect, but as tools readily available to love and serve people in crisis?

5. Giving Credit and Worship to God

Scripture: Genesis 14:18–20 (NIV)

"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."

Discussion Question: God sent Melchizedek to remind Abram exactly who won the battle, prompting Abram to worship by giving a tenth of everything. Why is it so easy for us to "pat ourselves on the back" after a success or victory, and what daily habits can help us remember that our accomplishments come from God's hand?

6. Rejecting the Riches of the World

Scripture: Genesis 14:22–23 (NIV)

"But Abram said to the king of Sodom, 'With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, "I made Abram rich."'"

Discussion Question: Abram completely refused the King of Sodom's rewards because he valued God's promises over worldly wealth and wanted God to get all the credit. In what ways can we draw a firm line today to ensure the world cannot claim ownership over our success, joy, or identity?

SARASOTA SERMON OUTLINE

Introduction

Genesis 13:2 NIV Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.

In ancient times, these three were the standard, the epitome of rich.

The average American makes 63k dollars a year, which is in the top 3% worldwide. 80k dollars a year is top 1% (which about a quarter of Americans make). The average American is elite-class worldwide.

Source: U.S. Census + Giving What We Can [“How Rich Am I?” Calculator](#). ([Calculator Methodology](#))

We’re bad at managing it! We can learn from how Abram uses his wealth.

Genesis 13:3b-4 ...he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the Lord.

Five lessons from Genesis 13 and 14 about wealth management.

Genesis 13:5-7 Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. And quarreling arose between Abram’s herders and Lot’s.

In next few verses, Abram comes up with a solution: give Lot a portion of his land to use for himself and his herds, and they won’t fight over the space.

Genesis 13:9b “Let’s part company. If you go to the left, I’ll go to the right; if you go to the right, I’ll go to the left.”

1. Prioritize relationships over wealth.

Luke 16:9, “I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.”

We ought to use what we have to build relationships with others.

Lot, on the other hand, takes advantage of Abram’s generosity

Genesis 13:10a Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt.

Land of the Jordan today is an uninhabited desert, but archeologists discovered there were dense cities there and an agricultural industry.

Source: Lloyd Holdcroft, “The Pentateuch.”

But there’s a catch about this place:

Genesis 13:10b (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)

We’ll learn in a few weeks that God destroyed these places because of their sin. (Genesis 18-19)

Genesis 13:11-13a So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. Now the people of Sodom were wicked...

Eventually, living in Sodom had a devastating impact on Lot's family.

2. Strive for holiness over wealthiness.

Have you ever chosen wealth or money over holiness?

Proverbs 16:8, "Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice."

Maybe when you go to work, you feel like you're pitching your tents near Sodom! Maybe it's time to stand up for what's right or find another workplace. It certainly won't be easy, but it's worth it to live surrendered to God instead.

At the end of chapter 13, God speaks to Abram and reiterates what he had promised Abram before, with this command at the end:

13:17 Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

Last time God told him something about the promised land, he ditched it and went to Egypt! How will Abram respond this time?

13:18a So Abram went...

He responds obediently.

He left the place in the south of the promised land where he had settled before, and went north and settled deeper into the land God had promised him.

13:18b There he built an altar to the Lord.

Abram worships God again and sacrifices to God again.

3. Pursue God's Call, Not Wealth.

Have you ever felt called to something by God?

He often calls us to uproot our whole lives to follow him.

God, if He's called you, can carry you through any hardship when you obey Him.

Matthew 6:26 "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

Would you be willing to obey God and trust in His promise that he will provide?

In ***Genesis 14***, we learn about a war that occurred in Canaan.

THE INVADERS vs. THE LOCALS

INVADERS win battle of Dead Sea Valley and take spoils from Sodom, including Lot as a prisoner!

Abram he gathers an army of 318 men from his household. He and his allies soundly defeated THE INVADERS, and Abram won all of the spoils and rescued Lot.

Abram in Egypt sacrificed others for himself, but now he sacrifices himself for others.

4. Sacrifice yourself to rescue others.

May cost you!

Is there anyone in your life who needs rescue?

Abram could have easily played the blame game and said, "That's what Lot gets for living with evil people!" but instead he goes and rescues Lot.

Acts 4:34-35 there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need."

Wouldn't it be wonderful if people could say about New Day, "They have no needs among them because the people there are so generous!

Yet, distinction between rescuing and enabling.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 ...when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

It's both more compassionate and more generous to help fix behavior rather than rescuing from the consequences.

After the customs of the day, Abram met with the king of Sodom to declare peace and discuss the spoils in a place called the Valley of the King outside Salem (early Jerusalem). The king of Salem comes out to mediate. Source: NIV Application Commentary

Genesis 14:18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High...

Melchizedek is a Bible mystery. He really was a priest of God. Abram later uses this same phrase, "God Most High," to refer specifically to Yahweh. Who this guy is, and how he became a priest of God, we have no idea!

***Genesis 14:19-20 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.***

This is the first recorded tithe in scripture!

He doesn't give the priest of God his leftovers; he gives him his best.

5. Be a giver, not a taker.

Matthew 22:21 *“So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”*

We ought to give to God what he requires of us. In the Jewish law, they were required to give ten percent to God. The New Testament writers tell us to give faithfully and generously, with a tithe as a starting point for many.

Jesus said to “give to Caesar what is Caesar’s.” In the same way, Abram also gives the rest of the spoils back to where they came from.

Genesis 14:21-24 *The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself.” But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, ‘I made Abram rich.’ I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me—to Aner, Eshkol and Mamre. Let them have their share.”*

What do you need to do to give back to others?

But even more so, we give to God, as Abram did to Melchizedek.

Abram gave to God before he gave to others.

Conclusion

Melchizedek is mentioned again in Psalm 110, where it is prophesied that the Messiah would be a priest like him.

A priest is one who intercedes for us to God and sacrifices on behalf of the people. That’s what Jesus does!

Hebrews 7:1-2 *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.”*

The author of Hebrews makes more comparisons:

- Melchizedek and Jesus preceded Levi.
- Both men were priests and kings.

Melchizedek points us toward Jesus.

If Abram gave to Melchizedek, how much more should we give Jesus?

But Jesus doesn’t just ask for our wealth; Jesus asks us for our lives.

Romans 12:1-2 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*

Would you be willing to be a living sacrifice to Jesus Christ?

Jesus isn't only our priest, but he's also the ultimate sin offering.

If Jesus suffered for you, surely you can accept His gift by giving him your life.

If we are united with him in suffering, we will be united with him in eternal life.

To offer our lives to Jesus and to pledge ourselves to him we get baptized.

We become a creation in Christ, and His Spirit intercedes as your priest.

SARASOTA SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Handling Wealth with an Open Hand

Scripture: Genesis 13:8–9 (NIV)

"So Abram said to Lot, 'Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left.'"

Discussion Question: The outline mentions that the average American is in the top 1% to 3% of wealth worldwide, yet we often struggle to manage it well. Abram prioritized his relationship with Lot over his wealth by letting Lot choose the land first. What is a practical area in your life right now where you can use your financial resources or possessions to build up a relationship rather than focusing on personal gain?

2. Guarding Against the Pull of Compromise

Scripture: Genesis 13:12–13 (NIV)

"Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord."

Discussion Question: Lot originally pitched his tents *near* Sodom, but eventually, living there had a devastating impact on his family. The outline challenges us to strive for holiness over wealthiness. Have you ever felt like you were "pitching your tents near Sodom" by choosing a job, a promotion, or a financial opportunity that compromised your faith or values? How can we stand up for what is right in culturally difficult environments?

3. Pursuing God's Call Over Comfort

Scripture: Genesis 13:17–18 (NIV)

"Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you." So Abram went and lived near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he pitched his tents. There he built an altar to the Lord."

Discussion Question: When God told Abram to move deeper into the promised land, Abram responded with immediate obedience and built an altar to worship Him. God often calls us to step out of our comfort zones or uproot our lives to follow Him. What is a promise or a direction you feel God is calling you toward right now, and what holds you back from fully trusting His provision?

4. Sacrificing for the Sake of Rescue

Scripture: Genesis 14:14–16 (NIV)

"When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan. During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people."

Discussion Question: Abram could have easily blamed Lot for his own poor choices, but instead he put his own life and resources on the line to rescue him. At the same time, the outline notes a healthy distinction between rescuing and enabling. How can we show sacrificial generosity to someone in a crisis while still helping them address the underlying behaviors that caused the issue?

5. Giving God Your Best, Not Your Leftovers

Scripture: Genesis 14:18–20 (NIV)

"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."

Discussion Question: Long before the law was given, Abram gave a tenth of his best spoils to Melchizedek as a baseline of worship. The New Testament reminds us to give faithfully, cheerfully, and generously. What does it look like in practical terms to give God your "best" rather than your "leftovers" when it comes to your finances, your time, and your energy?

6. Offering Our Entire Lives to Christ

Scripture: Romans 12:1 (NIV)

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

Discussion Question: The sermon concludes by pointing out that Jesus doesn't just want our wealth; He asks for our entire lives as a living sacrifice. If our true and proper worship is to not conform to the pattern of this world, what is one worldly standard or perspective on success that you need to surrender to Jesus this week?