

## LESSON 27 Devotional

# A Generous Patriarch

---

God owns everything on the earth, and He can choose how He desires to use or allocate His possessions. He can bless who He desires to bless, or He can curse those He chooses to curse.

Abraham discovered this when God called him to leave home and go to an unknown land. In Genesis 12 we read, *"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

God is generous! He chose to be generous to Abraham and to give him an amazing opportunity to be the Father of many nations, to stake out what became the Promised Land, and to fulfill a prophecy spoken to Noah (Genesis 9:25-26).

*he said, "Cursed be Canaan;  
a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers."  
He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem;  
and let Canaan be his servant."*

In response to God's generosity, Abraham became a generous man as well, both to others and to God. In Genesis 13:5-16 we read the story of Abraham generously allowing his nephew Lot to make his choice on which land he desired to own.

*And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, <sup>6</sup>so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, <sup>7</sup>and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land.*

*<sup>8</sup>Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are*

kinsmen. <sup>9</sup> *Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left.* <sup>10</sup> *And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)* <sup>11</sup> *So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other.* <sup>12</sup> *Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom.* <sup>13</sup> *Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.*

<sup>14</sup> *The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, <sup>15</sup> for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. <sup>16</sup> I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.*

Rather than pull rank as Lot's uncle, or demand the best property, Abraham allowed his nephew to choose. Lot naturally picked the land that looked the most promising at that time.

Once again, God chose to bless Abraham for his generosity. He told Abraham to look all four directions and as far as he could see God was going to give him all the land.

Abraham also recognized that all things given to him were God's to give, therefore, in response Abraham chose to be generous to God as well.

### **Read Genesis 14:17-20.**

*After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). <sup>18</sup> And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) <sup>19</sup> And he blessed him and said,*

*"Blessed be Abram by God Most High,  
 Possessor<sup>o</sup> of heaven and earth;  
<sup>20</sup> and blessed be God Most High,  
 who has delivered your enemies into your hand!"  
 And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.*

In this passage Abraham has just won a big victory against numerous kings. He saves his nephew Lot and plundered his enemies. After the victory a mysterious King shows up to provide bread and wine to Abraham and to remind him that the victory came from God, not Abraham's great fighting skills.

Abraham responds in a unique and interesting way by giving 10% of all his plunder to this mysterious king. Abraham *tithes* to the Lord long before a tithe was ever commanded by God. This action reveals his generous spirit and gratitude to a generous and gracious God. You might note that this mysterious King is also discussed in Hebrews 7. This passage hints that the King of Salem, Melchizedek, may have been Jesus Christ incarnate.

---

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. How would you have honestly handled the situation Abraham faced of splitting the land with Lot?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 2. When you have successes in business how hard is it for you to remember to praise God for His blessing on you?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 3. Do you ever give back to God's work, as Abraham did, in response to God's blessing of your business?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. When you experience successes do you feel more entitled or more grateful to God?

---

---

---

---

5. Discuss your philosophy of being generous through your business financially. In light of this lesson, are there any changes you feel you should consider to that philosophy?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---