

February 20th

## FAITH AND FAMILY

*When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people.” GENESIS 14:14-16*

“**F**amily ties mean that no matter how much you might want to run from your family, you can't.”

Ever heard anyone say this? Maybe you've experienced this truth yourself or at least seen it in someone else's family. How do we see this in the book of Genesis? So far, we've seen the complicated relationship between Abram and his nephew Lot. We've seen Abram take Lot with him after God called. We've seen the conflict between family units when Lot and Abram are forced to separate. We've seen Lot's selfishness in choosing the good land towards Sodom. Here in chapter fourteen, we see Abram coming to rescue Lot. What does God have to teach us here men?

Genesis 14 is the first account in the Bible of war. This is no small conflict that we read about in these fourteen verses. There is rebellion against foreign kings, and we can see that Sodom has been sacked. We can also see that Abram quickly jumps to the defense of his nephew Lot. How do you see Abram's response here?

Abram, later being renamed Abraham by God, is called a patriarch in the New Testament. He is a leader of his tribe. He is a shepherd of his people. Abram rushes to rescue Lot because of his love for Lot. You can see this love in another place in Genesis 18. Abram intercedes for Sodom partly because Lot is one of its residents.

How can this example impact us as men? Do you see yourself as God's shepherd of your house? If you're married, God has entrusted to you your wife. If you have children, God has entrusted to you His children. You act as God's representative that is sent to care and protect His family. This call remains despite conflict and discouragement. It remains despite age and geographical distance. The love that God has showed to Abram trickles down to how Abram treats his nephew. It's the same way with us. Sometimes there will be disagreement. Sometimes there will be a prodigal child. Despite the harsh reality of sin, we are called by God to shepherd the family that He's given to us. I can't think of any higher call than this one. How will you respond to this call today?

***Spend time thanking God for His family that He's given to you. Ask Him to give you wisdom to shepherd His people wisely.***

**For Further Reading: Genesis 14:1-16**