

GIVERS AND TAKERS

Different: Part 4

October 22, 2023

Pastor Brian

THE 3RD TEST: THE TEST OF STEWARDSHIP

How Do I See What's Been Given to Me?

*“**Lot**, who was traveling with Abram, had also become very wealthy with flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and many tents. But the land could not support both Abram and Lot with all their flocks and herds living so close together. So disputes broke out between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot. (At that time Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land.)” (Genesis 13:5–7, NLT)*

“The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you.” (Genesis 12:1, NLT)

TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

1. TAKERS value RIGHTS. GIVERS value RELATIONSHIPS.

“Finally Abram said to Lot, “Let’s not allow this conflict to come between us or our herdsmen. After all, we are close relatives! The whole countryside is open to you. Take your choice of any section of the land you want, and we will separate. If you want the land to the left, then I’ll take the land on the right. If you prefer the land on the right, then I’ll go to the left.”” (Genesis 13:8–9, NLT)

2. TAKERS always WANT MORE. GIVERS always RECEIVE MORE.

“Lot took a long look at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar. The whole area was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the LORD or the beautiful land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) Lot chose for himself the whole Jordan Valley to the east of them. He went there with his flocks and servants and parted company with his uncle Abram. So Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot moved his tents to a place near Sodom and settled among the cities of the plain. But the people of this area were extremely wicked and constantly sinned against the LORD.” (Genesis 13:10–13, NLT)

“...God-denying people are never content with what they have or who they are; their greed drives them relentlessly.” (Job 20:20, MSG)

“After Lot had gone, the LORD said to Abram, “Look as far as you can see in every direction—north and south, east and west. I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendants as a permanent possession. And I will give you so many descendants that, like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted! Go and walk through

the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you.” So **Abram moved his camp to Hebron** and settled near the oak grove belonging to Mamre. There he **built another altar** to the LORD.” (Genesis 13:14–18, NLT)

“Give to others, and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands—all that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you.” (Luke 6:38, GNB)

3. **TAKERS** always get **TAKEN**. **GIVERS** are always **GRACIOUS**.

“About this time war broke out in the region.

- 1) King Amraphel of Babylonia,
- 2) King Arioch of Ellasar,
- 3) King **Kedorlaomer** of Elam,
- 4) and King Tidal of Goiim

fought against...

- 1) King Bera of Sodom,
- 2) King Birsha of Gomorrah,
- 3) King Shinab of Admah,
- 4) King Shemeber of Zeboiim,
- 5) and the king of Bela (also called Zoar).

This second group of kings joined forces in Siddim Valley (that is, the valley of the Dead Sea). For twelve years they had been subject to King Kedorlaomer, but **in the thirteenth year they rebelled against him**. One year later Kedorlaomer and his allies arrived and defeated the **[entire territory of the Amalekites & the Amorites]**.

Then the **5** rebel kings...prepared for battle in the valley of the Dead Sea. They fought against **[the 4 kings led by Kedorlaomer]**. As it happened, the valley of the Dead Sea was filled with tar pits. And as the army of the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into the tar pits, while the rest escaped into the mountains. The victorious invaders then **plundered Sodom and Gomorrah** and headed for home, taking with them all the spoils of war and the food supplies. **They also captured Lot**—Abram’s nephew who lived in Sodom—and carried off everything he owned. But one of Lot’s men escaped and reported everything to Abram...” (Genesis 14:1–13, NLT)

“When **Abram heard** that his nephew Lot had been captured, he **mobilized** the 318 trained men who had been born into his household. Then he **pursued** Kedorlaomer’s army until he caught up with them at Dan. There he divided his men and **attacked** during the night. Kedorlaomer’s army fled, but Abram chased them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. Abram **recovered** all the goods that had been taken, and he **brought back his nephew Lot** with his possessions and all the women and other captives.” (Genesis 14:14–16, NLT)

“Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything.” (Proverbs 11:24, NLT)

4. **TAKERS** **NEVER GET AHEAD**. **GIVERS** are **WISE** with their wealth.

“After Abram returned from his victory over Kedorlaomer and all his allies, the king of Sodom went out to meet him...And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some bread and wine. Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing: “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who has defeated your enemies for you.” ...The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give back my people who were captured. But you may keep for yourself all the goods you have recovered.”” (Genesis 14:17–21, NLT)

Abram gave...

- 1) To the King of Sodom: **REBUKE**.

“Abram replied to the king of Sodom, “I solemnly swear to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, that I will not take so much as a single thread or sandal thong from what belongs to you. Otherwise you might say, ‘I am the one who made Abram rich.’”” (Genesis 14:22–23, NLT)

“Don’t be teamed with those who do not love the Lord, for what do the people of God have in common with the people of sin? How can light live with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14, The Living Bible)

- 2) To his allies: **RECOMPENSE**.

“I will accept only what my young warriors have already eaten, and I request that you give a fair share of the goods to my allies—Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre.”” (Genesis 14:24, NLT)

“Pay all your debts except the debt of love for others—never finish paying that!” (Romans 13:8a, The Living Bible)

- 3) To Melchizedek: **REVERENCE**.

Then Abram gave Melchizedek a [tithe] tenth of all the goods he had recovered.” (Genesis 14:20b, NLT)

“...The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.” (Deuteronomy 14:23, The Living Bible)

ACTION STEPS

**90 Day Tithe Challenge
All Access Tour**