

Devotional Thoughts

Genesis 14:18-20

"Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all."

Abraham's encounter with Melchizedek is one of the most interesting and encouraging stories in Scripture. The scene for their meeting is set in the previous chapter where we find Lot departing from Abraham and moving to the plains outside the city of Sodom. What seemed to be a brilliant business decision turned out to be a costly moral one and Lot is soon caught up in the ways of Sodom. When fighting breaks out between nations, Lot finds himself taken captive as a POW and led back to Elam where he will become a slave. The news of Sodom's defeat and Lot's capture reaches the ears of Abraham who gathers his 318 servants and heads out in hot pursuit. Abraham is attempting to do with 318 farmers what 5 armies could not do, defeat the forces of Chedorlaomer.

Miraculously Abraham is able to not only defeat Chedorlaomer but to drive his forces as far north as Damascus. God has accomplished the impossible through the faithful and fearless service of a few men. It is here where the story gets really interesting. Upon returning home Abraham is met by [Melchizedek the King and Priest of Salem](#). This man, although a brief character in the narrative of Genesis becomes a key player in the overall story of Scripture. When we come to the NT we are told that the ministry of Jesus was patterned after the ministry of Melchizedek. Jesus, unlike the Jewish priests was both a king and a priest. The encounter that Abraham has with him is an illustration of the encounters that we must have with Christ.

Abraham's encounter with Melchizedek happens after a battle that would have left any army exhausted and before facing the king of Sodom who would offer him the riches of the world. It is here that Abraham meets with Melchizedek who offers him bread, wine and a blessing. As scripture continues to unfold we will find that bread and wine also play a critical role.

Life for the believer is filled with spiritual battle. We face the trials and temptations of life coupled with the difficulties of winning others to the Lord. This can become exhausting and leave us vulnerable to the enemy's attacks. The secret is to take a page from Abraham's book and be sure that our service includes ample time with King Jesus times proper focus on the cross. In communion, where we are told to remember Jesus, the bread reminds us of His body broken for our sin, while the blood reminds us of the forgiveness we find in Him. It is critical that in the midst of battle we learn to get alone with the Lord and allow Him to strengthen us.

Whatever challenges you may face today spending time with Jesus will prepare you for it. Before you run out the door to face the next hurdle in life be sure to take time to look into the Word and up at the Lord.

Pastor Jim