

HIGH NOON WESTERN

INTRODUCTION

John Piper wrote that there were **Six Reasons for Jesus' Coming**:

1. to ransom many,
2. to call sinners,
3. to give sight to the morally blind,
4. to divide households,
5. to save from divine condemnation
6. to give eternal life.

DISCUSSION

Talk about each of the reasons Jesus came and how they all tie together.

EXPLANATION

How is any war justifiable?

Do you think Christianity is in a spiritual battle?

APPLICATION

Read 1 Peter 5:1-11.

Are we, as Christians, in a time of war or peace?

What are the best weapons of our warfare?

MISSION

If Jesus came to ransom many, how should we be living?

How do we contend and fight for the gospel in a way that brings honor to God, but also is sensitive to the wider culture around us?

Week 23

Family & Group Discussion



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Genesis 14:1-16

Galatians 6:9

Genesis 14:1-16

John 13:35

Proverbs 27:17

Matthew 5:44-45

Matthew 5:41

Proverbs 15:22

Galatians 4:4-5

Week 23

Notes & Scripture



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Galatians 6:9 “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

As God’s people we are to dwell peaceably in-so-far as it can be on our end, but sometimes we must fight for a just cause. In Genesis 14 an event of international importance sweeps past Abraham’s tent in Hebron and Abraham becomes involved. This event, in the end, will show the importance (and implications) of Abraham’s faith.

There is an important process to Chapter 14:

- “YHWH” (the LORD), is worshipped at an altar in Hebron by Abraham. - Genesis 13:18
- “YHWH” is the “Creator of heaven and earth” - Genesis 14:22.
- “YHWH” delivers the four kings of the east into Abraham’s hands. - Genesis 14:1-16
- Abraham has asked nothing and wants nothing from the kings of this world. - Genesis 14:22-23
- Abraham is the only one who proves able to dwell peacefully in the land.
- Genesis 12:3 has forecast that those who join with Abraham (14:13b) will enjoy his blessing (14: 24b).
- Those who separate from him, as Lot had done (Genesis 13:12), will suffer the same fate as Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 14:11-12).

Abraham isn’t condoning Lot’s sin, he is simply bringing rescue and relief (just like our great God does). You and I would probably leave Lot to his own choices, as we typically do with hard people in our life. Abraham responds like God does and comes to Lot’s rescue. Many times God puts hard people in our lives to raise us up. *John 13:35* “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Jesus reminds us that one of the greatest witnesses for the gospel is how God’s children treat each other.

If God loves you and wants to shape you, He will send some difficult people into your life. How do you deal with difficult people (like yourself)?

- **Keep Jesus as the center.** We cannot touch the deepest part of another person’s soul and bring change, only Jesus can do that. Pray for them because it is the closest we will ever come to being able to influence

people at their deepest level. The best way to effect another person is talking to Jesus.

- **Make a Choice to love like God loves...** *Matthew 5:44-45* “But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven”. God loves people who love Him. He loves people who don’t love Him. He doesn’t do it because He has to. Love is choice and it is a choice God Himself Makes.

Think about what type of men these kings were that Abraham ended up helping.

- *Bera king of Sodom* - in evil
- *Birsha king of Gomorrah* - with wickedness
- *Shinab king of Admah* - who hated his father
- *Shemeber king of Zeboiim* - the voluptuary

Jesus calls us to remember that the person we don’t like is also a human being. We take the time to imagine how they feel, how they’re treated. We ask what would help them become the person God intends for them to be.

Sometimes war is not only justified but required for holiness. Sometimes the only way to liberate those who have been harmed is to fight their captors. We see this in the Exodus with Pharaoh (God does it); we see this in Joshua; we see this in Judges. Abraham isn’t blood thirsty; he simply does what needs to be done.

Abraham does what Rabbi’s would call *pidyon Shevuyim* “redeeming those taken captive” or setting captives free by ransom. We are like Lot in that we need a ransom to be paid for us because we have sold ourselves into sin and have been alienated from our holy God. When Jesus came to us in our captivity to Satan, sin and death, He gave His life as a ransom us.

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Help with Military Family
Appreciation Day

July 28th

<http://goo.gl/AeFpy>

