

Day 14

So Much to Fight For

Genesis 13:1-18

For their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Genesis 13:6-7

Sometimes we fight because we are so richly blessed.

A woman died and left a large inheritance for her small church. At first, the members were ecstatic because they had financially struggled for years. Several people made known their plans for the bequest: pay off the mortgage, build an addition, fund a number of mission projects, establish an endowment that would produce future income, and others.

The people could not agree how to spend the money. Battles became so impassioned and positions so entrenched that, in the end, the church had to be dissolved. Much of the money was used to pay for the expenses of fighting. The church building was sold and what was left went back to the denomination.

While they had difficulties in the past, never before had this church experienced such conflict. It was not until they had so much to fight over that they lost sight of their greatest blessings and lost everything.

Abram chose a different way. He put Lot's interests first, and Abram accepted Lot's decision. He trusted God, who blessed Abram even more.

When we fight over our many blessings, we risk losing everything as well. But God had so much to fight for—the salvation of mankind. Jesus' death and resurrection won for us forgiveness and eternal life. May our greatest blessing of God's love and forgiveness keep us from selfishly fighting over any of our other gifts.

Generous Father, you so richly bless me, yet I sometimes fight for even more. Protect me from my own selfish desires and teach me to be generous and giving like you. Forgive me for Jesus' sake. Amen.

*Adapted from Forgiven to Forgive - 6 Weeks of Daily Devotions
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Write or type your answers. Writing your answers helps you to meditate more deeply on the question, organize your thoughts, and provide a visible way for you to review and reflect on how this devotion applies to your specific situation.

1. How have the rich blessings that you and your opponent received from God led to your conflict in this matter?
2. Whose interests did God consider when giving up His only Son to die?
3. Interests are what motivate us to take a position. They can include desires, values, beliefs, and more. In this conflict, identify:
 - a. Your God-pleasing interests.
 - b. Your opponent's God-pleasing interests.
 - c. God interests for both of you.
4. Write a prayer that God will help you set aside selfish interests and help you and your opponent both find ways to meet your God-pleasing interests in this conflict.