

**JUSTIFIED  
WHEN IN ROME IV  
ROMANS 4:1-3**

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You'll never end up losing when you believe God.

Romans 4:1-3 Abraham Justified by Faith

*What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."*

What about Abraham?

- Take a look at the test case of Abraham – 4:1 *What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh?*
  - Much of the world still revolves around Abraham: Jews and Arabs both claim Abraham as father.
- If Abraham was justified by works, then he can brag...but he wasn't, so he can't – 4:2 *For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.*
  - God called Abraham to leave everything he had ever known – Genesis 12:1
  - Abraham was chosen by God to be a source of judgment and blessing to the world – Genesis 12:2-3
  - Abraham simply obeyed God – Genesis 12:4-9
    - Abraham does tell a half-truth about his wife, Sarah – Genesis 12:10-20
    - Every hero other than Jesus is not without flaws.
  - Abraham gives Lot first choice – Genesis 13

- Sometimes the best choices are the hardest choices: Sodom usually thrives in the lush valleys. Better to be in a barren landscape and right with God than in a thriving, opulent, metropolis, and lose your family.
  - Leadership is more self-limitation than self-fulfillment. Abraham gave Lot first dibs.
  - Lot chose a different lot...
- Abraham bails out a family member (Lot), wins a battle, and finishes with a tithe – Genesis 14
- God reaffirms his love for Abraham – Genesis 15:1  
*After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”*
- You'll never end up losing when you believe God – 4:3 *For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”*
  - Abraham reminds God that the fulfillment hasn't yet arrived – Genesis 15:2-3 *But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”*  
<sup>3</sup> *And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.”*
  - God reminds Abraham – Genesis 15:4-5 *And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.”*  
<sup>5</sup> *And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”*
  - Abraham believes God – Genesis 15:6 *And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.*

2 Corinthians 10:17

*Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.*