

Genesis 13:1-18

Choosing Poorly

“A Christian man and woman were talking about a family in the church who had put the world above Christ. This family came to church, but it was a perfunctory attendance. Their hearts were not in it. Their interest in money and sophisticated friends led them to associate with unbelievers more than believers. Much of their income went to maintenance of their lifestyle. Additional funds went to the support of their daughters, whom they had placed in an academically demanding, but worldly, private school. Understandably, the daughters rejected Christianity, and this is what the Christian man and woman were talking about.

The man said, ‘Isn’t it sad what has happened to those girls?’

The woman replied, ‘What do you expect when you pitch your tent near Sodom?’

She was referring to Genesis 13. There we read that Abram and Lot separated. Abram choosing the Lord and his blessings. Lot choosing the prosperous but evil cities of the plain: ‘Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom’ (v. 12). As it turned out, Lot’s was an exceedingly bad choice, yet a choice that is often repeated today by Christians.” Boice

- I. 2 Cor. 7:10 tells us that *Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.* Abram reached a point in his faith journey where he fully understood the magnitude of godly sorrow and it devastated him. God’s purpose in letting him screw up like he did, was to not only teach him a lesson about trusting Him, but to also show him the importance of repentance. With repentance comes spiritual renewal and with spiritual renewal comes a more determined desire to stand firm in the faith, which is what he did. There are many lessons here, but one of the biggest is seen in how God restored Abram to a deeper faith. Satan is quick to tell us that we can’t go back, that our relationship with the Lord is broken and tarnished, but that’s not true. God is a God of grace and mercy. He loves to forgive and restore the wayward back into a loving relationship with Him. It too, is an important part of our faith Journey that must be understood for our own spiritual wellbeing.

Gen. 13:1-4

2 Cor. 13:5

John 15:1-3

1 Jn. 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

- II. There are always consequences that must be dealt with because of sin. God doesn't necessarily spare us from them upon repentance and renewal. One of the consequences of Abram's sin concerned his nephew Lot. Conflict arose because of their wealth, a conflict that had to be dealt with in order to maintain peace in the family. Both Abram and Lot had a choice to make. Would Abram choose God's way? Would Lot learn from what Abram went through and depend on God to make the right choice? We learn that Lot not only chose poorly, but he also continued to do so. He might have been a righteous man, but that doesn't mean he was a wise, discerning man when it came to what God wanted for his life. He was feckless in many ways and unfortunately, the outcome would prove to be disastrous for him and his family.

Gen. 13:5-13

Rom. 8:28

2 Peter 2:7-8

Col. 3:5-6

Joshua 24:15 ...But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

"The fact that Lot's failures came from a lack of principle and not from deliberate selection of evil is evident in the account, for the test at which he fell came indirectly."
Boice

- III. When God asked Abram to lift his eyes, he was asking him to see with the understanding that He was being true to His word in making him into a great nation. God never removed His promise from him because of his unfaithfulness, for He is faithful even when we are not. Here too is another lesson we are to learn. God is true to his Word. As sincere believers, the remnant of this age, we can trust Him to be true to His Word *while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ*, (Titus 2:13).

Gen. 13:14-18

2 Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

Psalms 128:4 Behold, for thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the Lord.