

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

Faith, Influence, and the Future – Genesis 13

Recovering from the debacle in Egypt:

13 So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb.

Genesis 13:1

Abram's ongoing, inconsistent journey of _____:

² Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. ³ And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, ⁴ to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the Lord.

⁵ And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, ⁶ so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together ...

Genesis 13:1-6

Abram, blessed nonetheless ... *Where'd all that wealth come from?*

Abram, returns to his spiritual "roots" ...

Where he "*had been at the beginning*":

Where he "*made an altar at the first*":

He "*calls upon the name of the Lord*":

This is all indicative of:

Abram, tested once again ... "*they could not dwell together*"

The struggle for survival and resulting _____:

⁷ and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land.

Genesis 13:7

The land "could not support both of them" ... why?

Man's *natural inclination* in difficulty ...

Abram's solution: _____.

⁸ Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. ⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left."

Genesis 13:8-9

What _____ me to do:

Let go of _____

Not _____ every battle

Be _____ despite circumstances

Be at _____ because of God

Lot's solution: TRUST SELF.

¹⁰ And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, *like the land of Egypt*, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) ¹¹ So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other.

Genesis 13:10-11

Why did Lot "desire" this land?

Note: The past has great pull from those who have not learned from it!

What does his choice say about the overall direction of his life? "*They separated from each other*"

What _____ me to do:

Believe only in what I can _____

Want _____ and _____

Act _____

Be _____ to the consequences

¹² Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. ¹³ Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord.

Genesis 13:12-13

Lot's decision is told in a foreboding manner. His decision sounds much like _____: "eyes", "saw", "watered", "garden", etc, and the effect would be similar.

Everything about his choice was off ... his *direction* (_____) is full of symbolism (3:24, 4:16, 11:2), the choice is *ironic*; soon this lush land will be consumed by fire (19:12ff), and the toll on his family would be considerable.

God, who honors Himself by keeping His covenant, blesses Abram for his faith:

¹⁴The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, ¹⁵for *all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever*. ¹⁶I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. ¹⁷Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you." ¹⁸So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord.

Genesis 13:14-18

Some important lessons to be learned:

God is absolutely, unequivocally _____ and worth my _____.

Faith _____ me. Lustful desires _____ me.

My decisions rarely, if ever, affect only ____.

I am always most vulnerable when I am either _____ with my "lot in life", or when my _____ are not God-ward.

Think of each choice I make not as a " _____ ", but as one part of an ongoing journey of faithfulness to God.

God must be first in every decision. Abraham moved _____ Him. Lot moved _____ Him. Ask yourself: "Which direction will this decision take me?"

Epilogue: Lot's sad, downward spiral:

Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and *moved his tent as far as Sodom.* (13:12)

They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, *who was dwelling in Sodom,* and his possessions, and went their way. (14:12)

The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and *Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom.* When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth ... (19:12)

Next week: NO MIDWEEK --- VBS!