

## Choose Wisely 11-01-15

### Gen 13:5-18

**One** small turning point in a stream high in Rocky Mts. in Colorado **separates & leads** to **2** entirely **different destinations**: Pacific or Atlantic Ocean.

- In **A&L's separation** we see **contrast** in **motives & actions** that leads to **2** completely **different destinies** for **them**, their **families/descendants**.

**Competition** for **grazing land** between A&L's herdsman **led** to **conflict** which **Abram handled** graciously & **wisely**. Gen 13:5-9, Jas 4:1-3, Mt 5:23-24

- Abram **knew** it takes **2** to **tangle** so he **took initiative** to **resolve conflict**
  - Placed **relationships & unity** ahead of his **personal rights**,
    - Abram **not exercise** Patriarchal **right & order** Lot to **leave**.

**Instead** he **graciously yielded** his **rights**, sacrificed **his interests**, gave **Lot 1<sup>st</sup> choice** & by faith **trusted God** to **fulfill** His **promises**. Phil 2:4-11, **Mt 5:5, 9**

- **Much strife avoided** if value **relationships over rights & trust** JC care.
  - We can be **generous** in **material/personal** ways if **truly believe & trust** in **God's love** for us & in **his ability** to **provide/care** for us.

**Jordan fairest** separation but **righteous Lot** took **all** of **best land & left Abram** w/**seemingly worthless** land. Gen 13:10-13, 1 Jn 2:16, Jas 1:14-15, 2 Pet 2:7-8

- Lot **chose** by **sight/greed**, not w/spiritual in mind & **reaped destruction**.
  - **looked** toward **Sodom** > tent **near** > house **in** Sodom > city **leader!**
    - **Tension: friend** of sinners, but **not tainted** by their **sin**.
  - **Wife died, fled** home, **incest** w/daughters: Moabites & Ammonites.
    - **End:** This righteous man moved by material things was **financially bankrupt** living in **cave**.
- Choose **godliness over greed: decisions** from **eternal perspective**.
  - What **happened** to **Lot's stuff** will **happen** to all **your stuff**.
    - **Don't look out for #1 but look up to #1.** Mt 6:19-20, 33

**Promises** of God **not thwarted** by **unselfishness** of **Abram** or **materialism** of **Lot**. Gen 13:14-18, 2 Cor 5:7, Rom 4:20-22

- **Included Lot's land: Not** technically **own Canaan** so **only parted** ways.
- God **used** discouraging **dust from famine** for **comfort, hope** for **future**
- **walking** thru land **symbolic** of **staking a claim & proclamation** of **trust** that **Lord able & willing** to **do** what He **promised to do**.
  - **Literally walking** by **faith**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> altar** characterized **Abram's communion/friendship w/God**.
  - **Trust JC** for **your portion** & be **grateful** for **what He provides**.

**Seemingly insignificant choices** can be **life-changing** for **you, kids, grandkids**

- They **begin chain** of **events** > **salvation, marriage, tragedy**.
- Since **choices often** result in **eternally significant consequences**, we should **make decisions** in line w/**God's principles**.
  - Choose **relationships over rights**;
  - **Godliness over greed**;
  - **Walk by faith** in **God's promises: especially** when looks **bleak**.
- **Look continually** to **promises** of God which are **forever yours in JC**.

- o If have **God & His promises**, have **everything** you'll ever need.

Gen 13:5-18

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, 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.

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." 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. 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.

14 The 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, 15 for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. 16 I 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. 17 Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you." 18 So 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.