

ABRAHAM AND LOT

(Genesis 13)

OPENING THOUGHT

As we enter the second chapter of Abram's story, we have already seen him show tremendous faith and a moment of faithlessness. He followed God without hesitation, leaving behind his comfort, security, and other gods. Abram trusted that the LORD would continue to bless him, just as He promised. Then we read that Abram showed a stunning lack of faith by resorting to deception in order to save himself. He traded his wife to Pharaoh rather than trust the provision of God. Abram has shown both faith and the lack thereof, while God remains continuously faithful.

Now we will read about Abram acting in faith once again. When the lack of space causes strife between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot, Abram easily could have forced his nephew to find another place to call home; however, he graciously allows Lot to have first choice of the land. Lot chooses the alluring Jordan Valley, while Abram goes into Canaan. Here, we see two drastically different behaviors between the two men. Lot acted upon his sight. He saw that the land was beautiful; therefore, he took it. Abram, however, waited upon the LORD. God tells Abram to look upon the land and to trust that it will belong to his offspring.

Abram walked by faith; Lot walked by sight. They each represent the only two ways of living life: operating upon our own wants and desires or upon the will of God. C. S. Lewis said it well: "There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, 'All right, then, have it your way.'" Which are you?

SUGGESTED VERSES FOR MEMORIZATION & MEDITATION

- 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." (Genesis 13:8)
- 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, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever." (Genesis 13:14-15)
- For we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

READ VERSES 1-4 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

1. After being faithless in Egypt, God brings Abram back to the altar he built in Bethel. This signified a new beginning for Abram. Can you recall a time when God took you back to the start of something in life because your process had been in the wrong direction?

READ VERSES 5-7 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

2. Because of the increasing wealth of Abram and Lot, the land could no longer support both of them. Can you recall moments when success or abundance led to conflict?

READ VERSES 8-13 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

3. Lot chose the Jordan Valley because of its visual beauty; however, we know that it was near the evil city of Sodom, which God would eventually destroy. Are there things that you have found appealing that are ultimately destructive? How is sin always a bait-and-switch?
4. Abram submitted the choice of land to Lot, knowing that God would still provide. Have you ever similarly yielded in a conflict, trusting God to work things out?

READ VERSES 14-18 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

5. Abram yields to Lot, trusting God to bless him, and the LORD is faithful to care for him. Can you remember a time when you trusted the LORD in a situation and witnessed His provision?
6. Abram responded to God's word by worshiping. Do you regularly worship God in response to His faithfulness toward you? How does the gospel lead us to worshiping everyday?

ACTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Consider times when you have walked by faith and when you walked by sight. Thank the LORD for His faithfulness during both types of seasons.
- Commit to praying for yourself and other brothers and sisters for deeper walks of faith in Christ.
- Consider how you worship each day in response to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for a deeper gratitude, expressed through worship, for the grace that God has given.