

Gratitude & Generosity

Genesis 13-14

Introduction: There are three stories of Abram and Lot, Genesis 13 relates their separation; Genesis 14 relates Abram's concern for Lot even after the separation and Genesis 19 relates Abram's anxiety for Lot as he learns of Sodom and Gomorrah's coming demise.

Genesis 13:1-18 - Abram & Lot - People and Stuff

Concept: In Genesis 12 circumstances pushed Abram to make a decision that was based in fear. Here we have another circumstance that pushes two men to make a decision that is rooted in conflict. (Genesis 13:10)

Deference Defined – An act of faith that God will use the person over me to make a decision for me that fits into God's will for my life.

When I insist on my own way God will defer to me and sin will take its course.

Precept: We exercise faith when we defer a decision to a person over us, with more experience, who cares about us, or can guide our eyes to see things that God sees. This is an act of faith.

Genesis 14:1-24 - Melchizedek – Psalm 110:3-5; Hebrews 5:6, 10; 6:20; 7:1, 10, 17, 22

Summary: First, we marry into the life of a family and Abram has little choice regarding Lot, they are relatives. Second, it can take wisdom to know how to respond to a wayward family members, but responding is important. Third, Abram is wise enough to not take spoils from his victory and so detaches himself from the drama and paganism of Sodom. Finally, Abram's actions tell me that he does everything he can to disassociate from Sodom while caring for his nephew and his family.

Conclusion: There are three statements of the promise by God to Abram and each comes after Abram is called to 'separate himself' from something/someone he loves; Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 13:14; Genesis 22:15-18. Following God is a call to put everything behind God and his will for your life.

Lot's eyes were stronger than his will; because his heart was filled with lust for the wrong things in life. Genesis 13:10 - Lot made three moves; "moved his tent as far as Sodom" (13:12); "dwelling in Sodom" (14:12); and "in the gate of Sodom" (19:1). (2 Peter 2:6-11) Saved so as by fire.

The end of this story is the interaction of Abram with two kings, Melchizedek (14:18-20) and the King of Sodom (14:21-24). Abram gives the king of Salem a tithe and he takes nothing from the King of Sodom. (Deuteronomy 20:15-18)