

DECIDING ON A WORLDLY DIRECTION GENESIS 13:5-13

Text:

Introduction:

All of us have seen the devastation of hurricanes. One of the greatest concerns with a hurricane is the direction of the hurricane.

Millions of dollars are spent to try to determine the direction they will take.....

Note:

Direction is also important when we consider someone's spiritual life! In Genesis 12 God called Abraham from the country to a promised land. It is here where we first begin to hear about Lot, the nephew of Abraham who traveled with him to Canaan. Throughout Lot's life he made worldly choices even though he had a godly uncle praying for him. On one occasion he was abducted by a group of desert chiefs and Abraham rescued him. Yet even then he would not return to the will of God.

Notice:

1. LOT'S DIRECTION (vs. 10-13)

Genesis 13:10-13

¹⁰ And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it *was* well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, *even* as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. ¹¹ Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. ¹² Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched *his* tent toward Sodom. ¹³ But the men of Sodom *were* wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

A. Moved Away From a Spiritual Man

Someone once said that, "Nearness is Likeness."

Proverbs 11:14

¹⁴ Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

Note: Lot sought no counsel from Abraham...

B. Toward a Wicked City (vs. 10-11)

Genesis 13:10-11

¹⁰ And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it *was* well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, *even* as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. ¹¹ Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

- Lot looked down to the Jordan Valley to a lush garden spot.

In that valley were 5 little cities including Sodom and Gomorrah.

Lot was intrigued with the thought of prosperity, and popularity. He did not show reverence to his elder uncle....

Lot's whole basis of his decision was on the temporal not the eternal. He was looking at the success he could have for a temporary time rather than seeking God's will.

Application:

Many men will set a wrong direction spiritually by focusing too strongly on their careers or on their personal desires in life.

Remember:

1 John 2:16-17

¹⁶For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

- Lot “pitched his tent” toward Sodom—he set his direction toward Sodom

This area is now completely covered by the Dead Sea. Many years ago, a Dr. Melvin Groves from Xenia Seminary found graveyards of the cities with lewd inscriptions and evidences of fire and brimstone.

Psalm 1:1-2

¹ Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ² But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Lot “stood in the way of sinners”.

This direction meant not only the loss of wealth, but also the loss of the souls of his family.

2. LOT’S DEVOTION (GEN. 14:12, 19:1)

Genesis 14:12

¹² And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

Genesis 19:1

¹ And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing *them* rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

Notice:

A. His Devotion for the City (vs. 14:12)

When we arrive to chapter 14, we see Lot is now living in Sodom. The simple direction of his life has changed the devotion of his life.

The trouble (war) that came upon the city of Sodom had an effect on Lot and his family. Lot was taken into captivity.

Abraham rescued Lot (verses 13-15) yet Lot returns to Sodom. Later, God warned Abraham of His coming judgment on the city—Genesis 18:20-22.

B. His Dedication to the City (vs. 19:1)

- He was in a place of prominence—many of the ancient Palestinian gates had benches.
- He was in a place of wickedness.

Verse 4 indicates that the men of Sodom wanted to debase the visitors to Lot's house. These were the vilest of men who had turned from the law and nature of God.

In verse 8 Lot attempts to protect the visitors from the perverted residents of Sodom.

Romans 1:26-28

²⁶For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of

the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. ²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Leviticus 18:22

²² Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it *is* abomination.

Note:

Recently, I heard a political candidate declaring his belief in legalizing same sex marriages. While the church must be prayerful in our hopes for all in sin to be saved, we are only hastening the judgment of God when we as a nation put our approval on something God declares to be an abomination.

It's interesting how Lot refers to these men.

Genesis 19:7-8

⁷ And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. ⁸ Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as *is* good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.

He referred to them as brethren.

3. LOT'S DEVASTATION (GEN. 19:12-27, 33)

A. Family Respect Was Lost (vs. 12-14)

Genesis 19:12-14

¹² And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring *them* out of this place: ¹³ For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it. ¹⁴ And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

Note: They would no longer listen to his message for his life had spoken more loudly.

Illustration:

When Dr. Richard Halverson was the U.S. Senate chaplain, he spoke before a group of evangelicals who had expressed their anger about Congress's inactivity on the subject of school prayer. They were irritated that Congress had not acted with a strong initiative to restore prayer in schools. To these who were seeking greater initiative from the government, Dr. Halverson asked, "How many of you have prayed with your children this month, outside of church?" Nobody raised their hand.

Remember:

Spiritual initiative starts in the home, not on Capitol Hill.

B. Family Friends Were Lost (vs. 24-25)

Genesis 19:24-25

²⁴ Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; ²⁵ And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

Remember:

Psalms 11:6

⁶ Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: *this shall be* the portion of their cup.

C. Family Members Were Lost (vs. 26)

Genesis 19:26

²⁶ But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Note: The angels had commanded that they not look back. Her sin was the sin of unbelief. Her husband lacked leadership...

D. Family Morals Were Lost (vs. 30-33)

Genesis 19:30-33

³⁰ And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and

his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters. ³¹ And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father *is* old, and *there is* not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth: ³² Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. ³³ And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose.

Note: The one who needed room away from Abraham is now confined to a cave in a hill in Zoar.

Note: The use of wine preceding immorality is not new to our generation.

Close:

Lot's downward slide began with one wrong decision. It was a choice of direction.

Note:

Perhaps you have made decisions that have effected your direction. The truth is that all the while during Lot's backsliding the Lord loved him.

2 Peter 2:6-8

⁶ And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned *them* with an overthrow, making *them* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; ⁷ And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: ⁸ (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing,

vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)

Note:

Lot's soul was vexed or continually troubled. (Pressed down)

Note:

God does not want your soul to be vexed. He wants you to know perfect peace.

- Through Salvation (Rom 5:8)

Romans 5:8

⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- Through Christian Living

Psalms 119:165

¹⁶⁵ Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Someone once said, ““To know the will of God is the greatest knowledge. To do the will of God is the greatest experience.”

May our decisions regarding our direction be in line with His Will for our lives.