

Bible Study – January 13, 2021 Genesis 13:10-18

Question: Are we an Abram or a Lot?

¹⁰ Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) ¹¹ So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: ¹² Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. ¹³ Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD. ¹⁴ The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. ¹⁵ All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring^[a] forever. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. ¹⁷ Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you." ¹⁸ So Abram went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he pitched his tents. There he built an altar to the LORD.

Background:

- Abram and Lot went to Bethel with their families and livestock. There, Abram called on the name of the Lord (13:4).
- Quarreling arose among Abram and Lot's herders – instead of working together, they fought.
- Abram allowed Lot to take his first pick of land (Lot should have declined as Abram was his elder and should have chosen first).

Lot's Attitude:

- Lot chose the well-watered plain of Jordan – the best land.
- He pitched his tent near Sodom, where people were sinning greatly against the Lord.
- Though the land was good, he was near a lot of temptation – have we ever worked too close to temptation?

Abram's Attitude:

- Allowed Lot to choose first to avoid more conflict.
- Pitched his tent and immediately built an altar to the Lord.

To consider:

- Warren Wiersbe, *With the Word* (pg 24) says: "You can move your tent nearer and nearer to sin, but you cannot take your altar with you. Lot left God behind and destroyed his home."
- We can choose to pitch our spiritual tents wherever we want – but it doesn't mean God will bless us. He loves us, but He doesn't approve of our sin.
- Abram stayed connected with God, but Lot chose to live near temptation. What do we do? Where do you pitch your spiritual tent?
- What are some temptations in your life right now that you need to move away from? What do you need to do in order to pull those stakes out of the ground and move somewhere else?
- What would it look like to pitch your tent right by the altar of the Lord? What does our life look like when we are loving God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength?