

Theme: Abraham (part 1) – Lot: a tale of two prayers/ Live, pray, die

PASSAGE: GENESIS 13 Abram and Lot Separate

13 *So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. ²Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.*

³From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier ⁴and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD.

⁵Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. ⁶But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. ⁷And quarrelling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.

⁸So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarrelling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. ⁹Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

¹⁰Lot 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.) ¹¹So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: ¹²Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. ¹³Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.

¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring^[a] forever. ¹⁶I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. ¹⁷Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

¹⁸So 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.

LAUNCH

- Can you remember the last time you had stress over how something was divided up? It could have been an inheritance, such as dividing furniture in a house or a business partnership. How did you feel at the time? What would you say were the negative feelings and what were the positive ones?
- Can you think of an example from history or fiction where a fall-out over possessions/ finance/ property or power had long term and painful consequences?
- The possession of large amounts of wealth does more harm than good. What are the arguments for and against this statement?

DISCOVERY

- What does this passage teach us about Abraham's character?
Why did he act in the way that he did?
- What does this passage teach about Lot's character?
Why did he act in the way that he did?
- Can you remember a time when you made a small bad decision that had painful consequences further down the line?
- *'Heroes do what is right not what is easy'* (Once upon a time).
Are there any decisions that you are in the process of making where there is potentially a right choice versus an easy choice?
- Arguments between Lot's herdsmen and Abraham's herdsmen must have been a terrible witness to the local population. What sort of arguments can the church have internally that can end up being a bad witness?
- Abraham had rights as the eldest relative but in faith he chose to set them aside. Are there any rights that you may be called to set aside at the moment?

APPLICATION

- Pray for any one facing a difficult decision at the moment.
- Pray for peace and graciousness towards one another in your small groups and in the church as a whole