

The Choice of Lot

TEXT: Gen. 13:1-13

INTRODUCTION:

- A. MUCH CAN BE LEARNED FROM OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS.
- B. FROM LOT WE CAN LEARN VALUABLE LESSONS IN:
 - 1. Decision making.
 - 2. The importance of making proper choices.
- C. WE WILL LOOK AT THE LIFE OF LOT, THEN FOCUS ON HIS DECISION AND HOW IT EFFECTED HIS LIFE.

I. LOT'S CHOICE.

- A. IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS, LOT IS INTRODUCED TO US AS...
 - 1. The nephew of Abraham who sojourned with him(**Gen. 12:15; 13:1**).
 - 2. A man who like his uncle became quite wealthy(**Gen. 13:2-5**).
 - a. Their combined wealth forced them to separate(**Gen. 13:6-9**).
 - b. Lot made a choice which seemed like a good one(**Gen. 13:10-12**).
 - c. But good as it seemed, it resulted in much sorrow and hardship for Lot!
- B. AS A RESULT OF HIS CHOICE, LOT SUFFERED...
 - 1. War(**Gen. 14:11**).
 - 2. Kidnapping(**Gen. 14:12**).
 - 3. Oppression by the citizens of Sodom(**2 Pet. 2:7-8; Gen. 19:1-11**).
 - 4. Loss of all his material wealth(**Gen. 19:15-16, 24-25**).
 - 5. The death of his wife(**Gen. 19:17, 26**).
 - 6. The shame of incest with his daughters(**Gen 19:30-36**).
- C. ALL THIS EVEN THOUGH LOT WAS A RIGHTEOUS MAN(**2 Pet. 2:7-8**).
- D. THE EXAMPLE OF LOT SHOULD IMPRESS US WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING PROPER CHOICES IN OUR LIVES.

II. WHAT IMPORTANT CHOICE MUST WE MAKE?

- A. WHETHER OR NOT TO FOLLOW JESUS!(**John 8:12; Luke 9:57-62**).
- B. YOUR CAREER(**2 Thess 3:10; Eph. 4:28; Acts 19:23-27**).
- C. YOUR MATE(**2 Cor. 6:14; 1 Cor. 9:5**).
 - 1. You may think you can divorce a person who turns out to be a bad choice.
 - 2. But once you have children, there is no way to reverse the choice you made as to who is the mother or father of your children!
- D. YOUR FRIENDS
 - 1. Having close friends can be a wonderful blessing(**Pro. 17:17**).
 - 2. But wrong friends can be a curse(**Pro. 12:26; 1 Cor. 15:33**).
- E. WHERE YOU WILL LIVE - LOT'S MISTAKE!
- F. WE MUST OFTEN LIVE WITH CONSEQUENCES OF POOR CHOICES.

III. HOW CAN WE MORE LIKELY MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE?

- A. ASK GOD FOR WISDOM(**Jas. 1:5-8**).
- B. SEEK ADVICE FROM OTHERS(**Prov. 11:14; 12:15**).
 - 1. Discuss your alternatives with older, mature Christians.
 - 2. Consult the wisdom found in the Bible (**Psa. 119:97-104**).
- C. PUT GOD'S WILL FIRST(**Psa. 37:5-6, 23-26; Jas. 4:15**).

IV. WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT WRONG CHOICES?

- A. SOME DECISIONS YOU ARE STUCK WITH.
 - 1. Marriage(**Matt. 19:9; Eph. 5:25**).
 - 2. Some consequences are irreversible.
- B. WHEN POSSIBLE, DO WHAT LOT, PETER, PAUL DID.
 - 1. They changed. Where sin was involved they repented(**Rom. 6:17-18**).
 - 2. They gave themselves to serve the Lord(**1 Pet. 4:19**).
 - 3. The wrong thing to do is to continue in the choice because of pride or some other reason!

CONCLUSION:

- A. THE EXAMPLE OF LOT SHOULD SERVE:
 - 1. To teach us that making the proper decisions is very important.
 - 2. To warn us not to make our choices lightly.
- B. REMEMBER LOT WHEN MAKING DECISIONS.
 - 1. Seek to make that decision based upon the will of the Lord and not your own
 - 2. Your eternal destiny (and that of those you love) might rest upon your choice!
- C. THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION YOU WILL EVER FACE DOES HAVE AN EFFECT ON YOUR DESTINY(**Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:38**).