

Remnant Life Church

December 3, 2017

Genesis:

Lessons by Lot

Genesis 13:5-18

- The Bible gives us a genealogical account of Abraham
 - Abraham is the 10th generation removed from Noah
 - From the line of Noah's oldest son, Shem
 - This is the line chosen by God that David will come through as well as the kings and eventually, Jesus
 - In **Gen 11** we are told...
 - Abraham is Lot's uncle (**11:27**)
 - Abraham came into the place of responsibility and authority over him when Lot's father, Haran died (v **28**) and his grandfather died (v **32**)
 - This is why Lot is with Abraham when God calls him
 - Two thoughts on the call of Abraham and Lot (**12:1**)
 - The first is that Abraham disobeyed God and takes Lot with him (v **4**)
 - The second is that Lot had no choice but to go

- Abraham and Lot
 - READ – Gen 11:27-32**
 - They arrived in Harran from Ur of the Chaldeans (**11:31**)
 - Ur of the Chaldeans was a city second only to Egypt in size, importance, and the advanced level of its civilization (in modern day Iran)
 - Located on the Euphrates, one of the 4 rivers that ran through the Garden of Eden, just north of the Persian Gulf
 - Haran was about 600 hundred miles inland to the north due west from the city of Nineveh
 - Away from the business and excitement of a city on the water
 - Like moving from NYC to Shrewsbury
 - The Bible does not tell us why they moved but it was the beginning of a pattern of wandering for Abraham

- Understanding the journey
 - Hermeneutics is the study of interpreting the Bible
 - How you read the Bible is influenced by your presuppositions
 - 21st century mind reading about primeval times
 - This is even true with how we think of their travel
 - 650 miles from Harran to Canaan (actually Egypt because of a great famine - **12:5-9**)
 - Average walking speed of an adult is 3 – 4 mph
 - Women, children, all the possessions, livestock
 - Using 2.5 mph for 6 hours a day = 15 miles a day
 - 650 miles = 6 - 7 weeks of travel

- The journey from start to finish would have been approx. 2 months
- Abraham was 75 years old at the time (12:4)
- They leave Egypt very wealthy (not the last time)
 - Go back the way they had come in
 - He and Lot had acquired so much that the land could not support them

READ – Genesis 13:8-18

- We begin to see the duplicitous nature of Lot (2 sides of living)
- Lot is given the choice by Abraham of the land for them to divide
 - As his superior, Lot should have deferred to Abraham
 - But he took the first choice and in doing so revealed some things about him
 1. He did not understand humility
 - a. In the culture of that day the hierarchy within the family was unbreakable and unchallenged
 - i. One of the main reasons Joseph's brothers hated him so much
 - b. The head of the family was absolute authority and ruler
 - c. It did not matter that Abraham gave Lot first choice, it was not his to take regardless
 - d. Pride will put you in places that you do not belong
 - e. It is why you will always fall – (Prov 16:18 - *Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.*)
 2. He was not grateful
 - a. Much of what he had he owed to Abraham (also from the death of his father)
 - b. The Hittites called Abraham a mighty prince in Gen 23
 - c. Lot was in line as a possible heir of Abraham and benefitted by his position
 3. He put his faith and trust in wealth rather than God
 - a. The Bible does not condemn wealth
 - b. It condemns putting your trust in possessions and loving it more than God
 - i. I Tim 6:17 - *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment*
- What did that do to him?
 - It put him on a path of destruction that cost him nearly everything
 - We see the progression of sin in his life
 - 13:12 – he settles by pitching his tent near Sodom
 - 14:12 – he is captured in a war as a member of Sodom's population
 - 19:1 – he is now at a place of prominence within the city

- God in his mercy still spared Lot
 - **2 Peter 2:7** – calls him a righteous man who was distressed by what he saw happening around him in Sodom
 - Yet he stayed and even got in deeper with them
 - Why did he not leave?
 - It was not even Lot who pleaded with God to spare the city it was Abraham (**Gen 18:1-33**)

- When you try and live with a foot in both worlds you will end up suffering the consequences
 - The Bible calls it being lukewarm (**Rev 3**)
 - God will not accept that way of living
- Lot tried to play both sides
 - Peter called him a man of righteousness
 - But because he was not fully committed to living his life for God...
 - He lost his home
 - He lost his wife
 - In a drunken stupor he fathers 2 sons named Moab and Ammi through his own daughters
 - Their descendants will become the Moabites and the Ammonites
 - Two nations of people that would become the enemies of Israel
- The lessons of Lot are clearly warnings for us today
- You must choose how to live your life
 - You cannot serve both God and the world
 - **Math 6:24** - *“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money (the world).”*
 - How will you live?
 - Who will you live for?