

Lot's Lot, or Abraham's Reward?

Lot is an interesting Bible character. Although he is an important player in the book of Genesis, not many people name their kids after him ("*Come here, little Lotty*"). And while Lot made some pretty serious mistakes, I think we have a lot (no pun intended) to learn from him.

- **In Genesis 13, Lot gets to choose where he will live:** the rich, well-watered plains of Jordan, or the less desirable land of Canaan. Lot could have let his Uncle Abram (soon to be Abraham) choose first, honoring his elder. Or he could have intentionally chosen the less desirable land so as to bless Abram. But **Lot chose selfishly**, using the "me first" mentality, and wound up paying for it.
- **Lot walked by sight, not by faith:** "*Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan...lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom*" (Genesis 13:11-12). **Lot chose safety**, the security of large cities, and the apparent abundance of well-watered fields. Abraham lived on the open plain (Genesis. 13:18), where one had to depend upon God for protection and provision. **He built an altar there, and transformed the less-desirable portion into a place of worship.**
- **Lot's dependence on the flesh soon backfires:** 4 kings come against Sodom & Gomorrah, and Lot gets taken hostage by the opposing army. So much for safety in numbers! And guess who bails him out? **Uncle Abram!** "*It is better to trust in the Lord than to trust in man.*"
- **Lot's reliance upon man instead of God leads to compromise:** Sodom & Gomorrah were terribly wicked, and Lot's alliance with the wicked leads to compromise with a godless culture. "*Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God*" (James 4:4).
- **Lot's compromise nearly leads to his destruction:** You know the story from Genesis 19: angels show up, tell Lot to leave, and yet Lot lingers (v. 16) there. The angels have to drag Lot by the hand to get him to leave! And then the fire and brimstone begin to fall, and Lot escapes by the skin of his teeth. "*Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts...*" (Psalm 95).

- **Yet, after all that, Lot still hasn't learned to trust in God instead of man:** On the way out of town, the angels tell Lot *"Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed"* (19:17). The mountains are often symbolic in Scripture of the dwelling place of God, and of His presence. **But Lot won't go!** He argues, *"I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die...this city is near enough...please let me escape there and my soul shall live"* (19:19-20). Lot continues to look to man instead of God for deliverance.
- **Lot's unbelief leads to terrible sin,** as it eventually does if not repented of and forsaken. You can read the rest of the story in **Genesis 19**. Suffice it to say, the result of unbelief was tragic, the family tree failed to fork, and Lot wound up being the father of 2 people groups who would be remembered for opposing God's people: the Moabites and the Ammonites.

So we see the result of 2 lives:

- Lot trusted man, and suffered terribly for it; Abraham trusted God, and was tremendously blessed for it.
- *Lot walked by sight; Abraham walked by faith.*
- Lot put himself first, while Abraham served (even risked) for others.
- *Lot's choices made him the father of the enemies of God (Moab & Ammon), whereas Abraham's faith made him the father of the people of God, even to this day (Galatians 3:29).*

You may be on the "open plain," with no help in sight; put your trust in God, who has promised to NEVER leave you nor forsake you (Heb. 13:5). You may be in the "less-desirable land; so build the Lord an altar there, and make it a place of worship. You will find that the place of rejection, lack, and loneliness will be TRANSFORMED by the Lord God Almighty, the Lover of your soul, into a place of unparalleled fruitfulness for you and glory for God.

May the Lord BLESS you today with fullness of joy, abundant grace, perfect peace; and may His presence be your portion.

In Jesus' love,

Pastor Matthew Casey

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