

Genesis 13:1-13—Lot's Bad Choice, Abram's Good Choice

Memory Verses

Genesis 12:1-3, 7 NKJV—*The unconditional promises given to Abraham*

Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. ² **I will** make you a great nation; **I will** bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. ³ **I will** bless those who bless you, and **I will** curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants **I will** give this land."

Introduction

We are studying the life of Abraham, arguably the clearest examples of how a person is saved by faith alone (justification—just-if-ied never sinned), and also grows in faith (sanctification—God changes us more and more into the image of Christ). In Genesis chapters 11 and 12, we see Abraham partially obeying God's call on his life, dragging his feet, and making other people and other things more important than fully obeying God.

"Abram's unbelief took him from his place of worship; it led him into sin, and caused him to lead others into sin. It made him more confident in his ability to lie than in the protecting power of God. It even broke apart his family for a while. Finally, even an ungodly king rightly rebuked him." (David Guzik)

However, God is patient and kind, and we see how God works in Abraham's life to cause him to grow in his faith. We learn from the life of Abraham that our failure to trust God, our unbelief, will hurt us, but it will not destroy us. Why? Because our sanctification is an unconditional promise for all believers: God is faithful to finish the sanctifying work that He started when we first were saved.

Philippians 1:6 NLT

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Outline: (Genesis 13:1-13)

1. Abraham's return to fellowship with God—Genuine repentance or "godly sorrow" means making God our First Love once again (vs 1-4)
2. Strife between Abraham and Lot (vs 5-7)
3. Abraham demonstrates maturity and humility by giving up his rights (vs 8-9)
4. Lot's bad choice (vs 10-13)

Genesis 13:1-13 NKJV

Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South. ² Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. ³ And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, ⁴ to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

⁵ Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. ⁶ Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together. ⁷ And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land.

⁸ So Abram said to Lot, “Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. ⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left.”

¹⁰ And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. ¹¹ Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. ¹² Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. ¹³ But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.

1. Abraham’s return to fellowship with God—Genuine repentance or “godly sorrow” means making God our First Love once again

Genesis 13:1-4 NKJV

Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South. ² Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. ³ And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, ⁴ to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

v1 **Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had... to the South:** The South refers to the southern part of the land of Israel. Israel or Canaan is north of Egypt. Remember that Abraham had disobeyed God by leaving the promised land and travelling *down* to Egypt (Egypt being a picture or type of the world system). Abraham did this to escape a severe famine that was affecting all the land of Canaan (life in the will of God is not always smooth sailing—there will be trials). We observe that one sin always leads to another, and so Abraham then lied to save his own life, causing his wife Sarah to be taken from him and given to the king of Egypt. But, because God’s promises to Abraham were unconditional—the Saviour or promised Seed must be a descendant of Abraham and Sarah—God miraculously intervened and caused the king of Egypt to return Sarah to Abraham. Abraham was rebuked and humiliated by a pagan king, and now he is returning home.

v 1 **And Lot with him:** The Holy Spirit adds this little footnote in here. Here we see that Abraham was guilty of a much greater sin—that of causing a weaker brother to stumble. We will see the terrible consequences of this soon.

v 2 **Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold:** Again, as we learned previously, material wealth is not a sign of being in fellowship with God. In fact, we will see that the material wealth will actually be what causes fights and disputes between Abraham and Lot, and also cause Lot to take his eyes off God and chase worldly gain. Always remember that the gifts the devil gives us are never good for us in the long run; they feel good now, but will eventually hurt us or even destroy us.

“Abram should not have used the blessing God brought to him in Egypt as a justification for going there. Even though God is great enough to bring good even when we disobey, there is still a cost built into disobedience.” (David Guzik)

Remember that one way that God disciplines His stubborn children is to give them what they want so that they can learn the hard way that what they think is good for them is actually harmful—pride causes us to learn lessons the hard way. This is why God desires us to walk humbly with Him, so we enjoy His love and avoid all the pitfalls and heartbreak sin causes.

Micah 6:8 NKJV

He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

v 3 **And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai:** This is good. It's common sense that when you get lost, you first need to find your way back to the point where you strayed from the straight and narrow and resume walking along the right path again. But again, there is a cost: lost time, of a lack of spiritual progress, wasted opportunities, causing others to stumble, a shallow and unfulfilling life, and most importantly, missing out on simply enjoying the presence of God. Again, Abraham, like many today, traded the peace of God for a piece of this world.

“Even though Abram came back from Egypt with great riches, he returned to the same place as before. He was right back where he started. Essentially, Abram's time in Egypt was wasted time. God could have and would have provided for his needs in Canaan.”
(David Guzik)

Repentance: We must die to self, putting to death the desires of our sinful nature

v 4 **To the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the LORD:** Here Abraham worships again. Why is this significant? Because there were no altars in Egypt. Why? Because an altar is a place of death, and our lives should be living sacrifices on God's altar—we must learn to die daily if we are going to experience fellowship with God. Consider that, all the while Abraham was in Egypt, he was dominated by his sinful nature—Abraham was allowing his sinful nature to rule him instead of putting it to death—he therefore was out of the will of God simply because he was choosing to do the opposite of what God wanted him to do.

Romans 12:1-2 NLT

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2 AMP

I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.

² Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

Repentance: There are no waiting periods

But when Abraham chose to repent, to come back into the will of God, there were no waiting periods, no divine cold shoulders, no penance or good works that must be performed to appease an angry God and make up for his mistakes and rebellion that resulted from his unbelief, no time in the dog house (so to speak), before Abraham could come back into the will of God and experience fellowship with God.

“Yet, Abram also did what he should. Instead of torturing himself about his past sin, he got busy doing what he needed to do: living with the tent as a pilgrim and the altar as a worshipper, calling on the name of the LORD.” (David Guzik)

Hebrews 4:16 NKJV

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16 AMP

Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God’s unmerited favour to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it].

Every believer starts in the wilderness, where they first have to learn about God (by reading and studying the Word of God), and then learn to trust Him

It’s interesting to note that it was a long time from the time that Abraham received the command of God to leave his home and his family to the time when he first worshipped God (when he actually arrived in the promised land—a picture or type of walking by faith). It was likely a period of several years. All believers start this way, being dominated by their sinful nature, and being dominated by habitual sin (drugs, alcohol, sexual immorality, anger, pride, and a refusal to obey God’s calling on their lives etc). But some take a longer time to come to the place where they are actually willing to give up or die to what they want, so that they can do what God wants and live for Him. This is described in Hebrews chapters 3 and 4 as a wilderness experience, where the nation of Israel after coming out of Egypt refused to enter the promised land for fear of the giants there. They doubted God’s love and God’s power. The bible warns us against presuming upon the love of God, giving the example of a whole generation of Israelites who died, never having experienced living by faith, never having walked in fellowship with God, never having experienced God’s love and power in their lives—this is truly a tragedy.

Hebrews 4:10-11 AMP

For he who has once entered [God’s] rest also has ceased from [the weariness and pain] of human labours, just as God rested from those labours peculiarly His own. [Gen. 2:2.]

¹¹ Let us therefore be zealous and exert ourselves and strive diligently to enter that rest [of God, to know and experience it for ourselves], that no one may fall or perish by the same kind of unbelief and disobedience [into which those in the wilderness fell].

Repentance: coming back to both our first love, and our first works

For Abraham to come back into fellowship with God, he had to do two things. First a change of heart, which then resulted in a change of attitude and behaviour. It is very easy to fake repentance by changing our behaviour, but not putting to death the desires of our sinful nature. In God’s eyes there is no change in us at all. We may have stopped the sin, but the desire to continue in the sin is still there—there has been no true repentance, no change of heart. We have only stopped because the cost of the sin becomes too great for us to bear—it causes us to miss out on other things that we want or simply causes us too much pain.

Revelation 2:4–5 NKJV

Nevertheless I have this against you, that **you have left your first love**. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; **repent and do the first works**, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

Notice that the problem starts with us leaving our first love, which means that we have chosen to love something or someone else more than God. This then results in us doing works that are at the minimum selfish. Notice that **repentance** (a change of heart) must precede a change of behaviour (**do the first works**).

Repentance: Worldly sorrow verses godly sorrow

Abraham demonstrates godly sorrow by his worship of God—Abraham actively put to death the deeds of his sinful nature—he chose to love God more than his sin—this is what worshipping at the altar represents. This then resulted in him once again living a life that pleases God. The changed life is the evidence of a changed or repentant heart.

God used a pagan king to humble Abraham, and Abraham responded in the right way—with humility. He didn't go back to the land of Canaan just because he had to, because he was no longer welcome in Egypt. Rather, Abraham wanted to come back into fellowship with God. His act of worship is evidence of this.

2 Corinthians 7:8-11 NLT

I am not sorry that I sent that severe letter to you, though I was sorry at first, for I know it was painful to you for a little while. ⁹ Now I am glad I sent it, not because it hurt you, but because the pain caused you to repent and change your ways. It was the kind of sorrow God wants his people to have, so you were not harmed by us in any way. ¹⁰ For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.

¹¹ Just see what this godly sorrow produced in you! Such earnestness, such concern to clear yourselves, such indignation, such alarm, such longing to see me, such zeal, and such a readiness to punish wrong. You showed that you have done everything necessary to make things right.

Abraham truly repented. He displayed godly sorrow. His heart was soft and he didn't want to continue to grieve God and break God's heart. Abraham's change of behaviour (going back to Canaan) was motivated by a genuine change of heart. This is why Abraham was called the "friend of God".

However, we will soon see that Lot would have rather stayed in Egypt. His heart was set on riches and wealth. Lot was not truly repentant—he continued to worship wealth as his idol, even though outwardly he was living in the promised land with Abraham. Lot is an example of a believer (see 2 Peter 2:7-8) who demonstrated worldly sorrow—it was only his circumstances that caused a change of behaviour, not a change of heart towards God. Lot was not concerned about how his sin was grieving or affecting God. Rather, Lot only left Egypt because he had to—because he was associated with Abraham, he too was "persona non grata" or not welcome in Egypt.

Application: Keep the fire burning

Think about the fire triangle: fuel, heat and air (oxygen) are the three things required for there to be a fire. If you have all present, then there will be a fire. Think about when you light your BBQ. You turn on the gas (fuel), there is air present, and then you strike a match (heat). So to put a fire out, all you need to do is remove one of the three elements: fuel, air or heat. This is also true for us spiritually.

What do we as believers need to do to grow in our faith, to stay "on fire" for God, to be worshipers of God, and not let our love for God grow cold?

Matthew 24:12-13 NKJV

And because lawlessness (sin) will abound, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

The world we live in is evil. It will always be an uphill battle to live godly for Jesus. So what do we need to grow, to stay hot, and not grow cold? How do we stay “on fire” for God, enthusiastic, full of God. Just like the physical fire needs the three elements, so does the believer’s spiritual fire.

1. The word of God (fuel)

Jesus said in John 17:17, “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.” Jesus also said in John 16:13, “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth”. Again, Jesus said in John 14:26, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

No fuel: We can neglect the word of God and starve ourselves.

The wrong fuel: We can also have the wrong fuel. Other peoples experiences or testimonies are fuel for our emotions. They make us feel good, but can’t be used by the Spirit as food for our souls. We’ll never know if someone’s testimony is true or false, but God’s word is always true. We need good doctrine and teaching and to feed on God’s word on a daily basis.

2. Fellowship with other believers (heat)

Story of the guy who stopped coming to church: the pastor visits his house and pulls a red hot coal out of the fire and puts in on the hearth... it goes cold, he gets the point. A believer out of fellowship will grow cold. We all need each other if we are going to grow in our relation with God.

3. We need to be worshippers, in love with the Lord (air)

Worship takes many forms, evangelism, singing, bible study, prayer, serving others etc. It’s like breathing - we take something in, then we breathe it out. We learn something then we put it into practice or praise God because of it.

2 Timothy 1:6 says to, “Stir up the gift that is in you...”. “Stir up” is literally “stoke the fire”. Get the fire going again if it is starting to grow cold. Abraham did this when he went back to Bethel (the house of God) and worshipped—he returned to God as his first love, and also did the first works (lived in the land in tents like God told him to). Our spiritual fire can be quenched or smothered by many things - work pressure, tiredness, concerns of family and friends, cares of the world, any sin, and choosing to unnecessarily associate with worldly people etc. We must learn to guard our relationship with God from anything that will quench it.

2. Strife between Abraham and Lot

Genesis 13:5-9 NKJV

Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. ⁶ Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together. ⁷ And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram’s livestock and the herdsmen of Lot’s livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land.

Genesis 12:5 mentions that Abraham gained possessions and people while living in Haran. But after leaving Egypt, Abraham is described in Genesis 13:2 as being “**very rich in livestock, silver, and in gold**”. Also, it appears that it wasn’t only Abraham that benefited financially from living a sinful lifestyle. Lot is becoming a carbon (exact) copy of Abraham, acquiring much wealth while in Haran and Egypt. Now they are so rich that there is not enough pasture to support all their animals while they live together in the same land area.

v 7 **The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land:** *This is the real problem. The unbelievers were watching.* Abraham is known as a prophet of God, yet his own house is not in order. The big problem here is that these arguments and disputes over grazing land for all their animals is ruining Abraham’s witness as a prophet of God.

We must maintain a good witness for the Lord, otherwise our message will not be taken seriously. If we don’t “walk the talk” or live what we speak, then there is no point in speaking, in fact it is best not to. Our talk must match our walk. If not, then we are just being a hypocrite and the world has no respect for us. My father once told me, “Do what I say, not what I do”. My thoughts were, “Good luck with that dad”. If my dad wasn’t willing to model the behaviour he was asking of me, then there was no chance of me conforming to his instructions and advice.

If we really want people around us, especially unbelievers, to believe what we say about heaven and hell, about who God is and His marvellous plan of salvation—if we really care about their eternal salvation—then we will be willing to submit ourselves to God’s will and do things His way. We should never justify the excuse that many unbelievers have for not following Christ: “Christians are just hypocrites, how can they expect me to believe what they say if they don’t even believe it themselves—how can they say they love God if they won’t do what He says?”

3. Abraham demonstrates humility by willingly giving up his rights

Genesis 13:8-9 NKJV

So Abram said to Lot, “Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. ⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left.”

The principle of separation from those who are making the conscious choice to not walk with God

v 9 **Please separate from me:** Lot is an immature, worldly, backslidden believer, who is unrepentant. There comes a time when an obedient believer who is walking in fellowship with God must discern that another believer is not willing to change, that there is nothing more we can do to help them, that continuing to associate with them will only hurt us, and so we separate from them and leave them to experience God’s discipline. Paul did this as well.

1 Timothy 1:19-20 NLT

Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked. ²⁰ Hymenaeus and Alexander are two examples. I threw them out and handed them over to Satan so they might learn not to blaspheme God.

Abraham demonstrates Christlikeness (humility) by willingly giving up his rights

v 9 **If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left:** Abraham was the elder, the patriarch of the family. Abraham had every right to have first choice of the land. But just imagine what would have happened in an already contentious and possibly violent situation—Abraham demanding his rights would have only thrown a lot more wood onto the fire. Just imagine how the greedy and immature Lot would have reacted—“No, that’s not fair, you’re being greedy by taking the best part of the land.” Then Lot’s servants may have gotten even more angry with Abraham and his servants and the gloves could have come off—there could have been a massive family feud.

But instead of Abraham exercising his rights as the elder or patriarch in the family, he lets Lot have first choice of the land. This diffuses the situation, and by allowing Lot to choose first, reveals the evil intent of Lot’s heart—a focus on material wealth (we’ll see this soon).

Here we see the fruit of Abraham’s walk with God—humility, gentleness, patience etc.

Galatians 5:16, 22-26 NLT

¹⁶ So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. ... ²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

As Abraham walked with God, he was transformed more and more into the image of God. *The bottom line is that we become like what we worship.* Abraham worshipped God, and so became more like God. God reveals who He is like in Matthew 11:29.

Matthew 11:29 AMP

Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls.

We also see Abraham growing to be a mature man, a man of good character who is qualified to lead.

2 Timothy 2:23-24 NLT

Again I say, don’t get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. ²⁴ A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.

“Here was a mature and sensitive move on Abram’s part. As the older man and the leader, it was his right to have first choice. But he had learned something important. When he had gone to Egypt, he had chosen for himself and had gotten into great difficulty. Now he was content to leave the choices with God and to trust God for his future provision. Abram was willing to give up his rights. He did not need to take care of “number one.” God would do that. Therefore, since he was sure God would provide, he held the things of this world loosely. If God gave them, that was all right. Abram would hold them in trust from God and use them for God’s glory. But if God took them away, that was fine too. **For Abram had God and, having him, had the only thing that ultimately mattered.**” (James M. Boice)

4. Lot's bad choice

Genesis 13:10-13 NKJV

And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. ¹¹ Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. ¹² Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. ¹³ But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.

Previously we saw Abraham sacrifice his family for the sake of personal comfort and material gain when he went to Egypt to escape the famine. Now we see Lot doing the same thing—prioritising material wealth over the spiritual wellbeing of his family and servants.

“Instead of deferring to Abram, as he should have done, Lot seized the opportunity to his own advantage (as he thought). He had been infected with the luxury and excitement of Egypt, and was no longer content to be a “stranger and pilgrim in the land” (Hebrews 11:13). He looked down to the plain of the Jordan River, as it flows into the Salt Sea, where there were five prosperous, exciting cities, and decided that was where he would like to be.” (James M. Boice)

“Lot left Ur, but he became entrenched in Sodom. A lot of people are like that. They say yes to heaven, but they never say no to the world. And, like Lot, they end up in a terrible predicament.” (Jon Courson)

It's important to remember that Lot was an genuine believer, who had peace *with* God, but he had traded the peace *of* God for a piece of this world, which resulted in him being tormented in his soul. Christians need to remember that they will never find satisfaction in sin—they will never be able to fully enjoy their sin—because they will always be aware that they are in rebellion against God. The backslidden Christian is the most miserable of all people. They can't enjoy God, and they can't enjoy sin. They are just miserable.

2 Peter 2:7-8 NLT

But God also rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man (he had made peace with God) who was sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him. ⁸ **Yes, Lot was a righteous man who was tormented in his soul** (he had lost the peace of God) by the wickedness he saw and heard day after day.

How did Lot get to be in such a terrible spiritual state? There are three steps:

1. ***Lot was weak in his devotion to God***

The problem starts with Lot not being an altar builder—he wasn't a worshipper or lover of God. There is no record in Scripture of Lot ever building an altar and worshipping God.

2. ***Therefore Lot did not desire God, but the things of the world***

v 10 And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar.

“Lot was worldly in desires. He lifted up his eyes, but not high enough. He didn’t lift his eyes to heaven and say, “Lord, show me the best place for me and my family.” Instead, he lifted up his eyes only high enough to check out the financial possibilities and the greenest pastures. Lot saw a good place to raise cattle, but failed to see that it would be a lousy place to raise kids because he fixed his gaze short of heaven.” (Jon Courson)

3. **Therefore Lot made a series of bad decisions**

vs 11-13 **Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. ¹² Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. ¹³ But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.**

“Thirdly, Lot was wrong in decision. Lot made a series of wrong decisions based on his own reasoning...

- In verse 10, he looked toward Sodom.
- In verse 12, he pitched his tent toward Sodom.
- In chapter 19, we’ll see him became a leader in Sodom.” (Jon Courson)

We need to learn the lesson of Lot. A lack of devotion to and love for God will lead us to have the wrong desires and therefore make the wrong choices. This is why God gives us this strong admonition in:

Jude 20-21 NLT

But you, dear friends, **must** build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, ²¹ and await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, *you will keep yourselves safe in God’s love.*

Consider also that believers who partake in worldly activities will suffer along with the worldly people. We won’t lose our salvation, but we will suffer the same miserable and painful *practical* consequences of sin just like the world does in the here and now. We will see as we continue through Genesis that Lot suffers the same physical consequences or judgements for sin as the inhabitants of those wicked cities that he chose to live in.

Revelation 18:4-5 NLT

Then I heard another voice calling from heaven, “Come away from her, My people. Do not take part in her sins, or you will be punished with her. ⁵ For her sins are piled as high as heaven, and God remembers her evil deeds.

Summary and Conclusion

The decisions we make today determine who we will be tomorrow. Although not perfect, Abraham repented of his sin and so grew into a godly man, a man who was used mightily by God and received much honour from God.

In contrast, Lot did not repent and continued on in his sinful ways, in the end destroying his witness, his family, his household, himself, and left behind a family legacy of drunkenness and incest that none of us would be proud of.

Two believers, two different paths. Again, *the decisions we make today determine who we will be tomorrow.*