

THE DANGER OF PROSPERITY

GENESIS 13:1-18

1/24/26

I. CONTEXT

A. The danger of prosperity

Genesis 13:5-7 - “And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents,⁶ so that the land could not support both of them dwelling 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. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land.”

1. It lulls us into false security and hope

Genesis 13:8-9 - “Then Abram said to Lot, ‘Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen.⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left.’”

B. Abram’s change

1. Selfish to self-less
2. Generous

Genesis 13:10-18 - “And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)¹¹ So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other.¹² Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom.¹³ Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.¹⁴ The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, ‘Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward,¹⁵ for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.¹⁶ I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.¹⁷ Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.’¹⁸ So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.”

II. LOT “LIFTED UP HIS EYES”

- A. Abram — God said, “Lift up your eyes”
- B. Lot’s future was temporary
- C. Abram’s future was “forever”

III. LOT “CHOSE FOR HIMSELF”

- A. Abram – God said, “I will give you”
- B. FB Meyer - “Lot traded the spiritual influence of Abram for the green grass of Sodom.”

IV. LOT “SETTLES” IN SIN

- A. Abram “Settles” in worship
- B. When we live by faith...worship flows from our lives

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one thing from the message this week that stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. It was easy for Lot to trust in himself for his future. How do we do this today? What are some things to help us combat this tendency?
3. God is revealing His plan to Abram, bit by bit. How is Abram's experience of God like yours, or different from yours?
4. Why do you think that God doesn't just tell us all of His plans for our lives up front?
5. How has not knowing where to go or what to do increased your trust and dependency upon God?
6. Lot traded spiritual influences for things that appeared to be good. How have you done that in your life? What was the result of that?
7. What spiritual influences do you have in your life that deepen your faith walk?
8. What is one thing from the message or the group this week that you want to live out? How can the group help you with that?

GOD'S PROMISE THIS WEEK

- *2 Chronicles 7:14 - “If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”*
 - God forgave Abram's mis-step and He continued His promises to Abram in Chapter 13
 - Abram's returning to God and repentance opened the door to fellowship and blessing from God!