

Journeys OF Faith

The God of

Abraham • Isaac • Jacob

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Bad Choices

Gen 13

Love God, then do
what you will.

Saint Augustine

“Love God and do whatever you please: for the soul trained in love to God will do nothing to offend the One who is Beloved.”

Augustine

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“Love, and do what thou wilt: whether thou hold thy peace, through love hold thy peace; whether thou cry out, through love cry out; whether thou correct, through love correct; whether thou spare, through love do thou spare: let the root of love be within, of this root can nothing spring but what is good.” Augustine (1Jn 4:4-12)

NOT: Because God loves you –
you may do as you please!

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1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev,
he and his wife and all that belonged to him,
and Lot with him.

2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold.

Leaving Egypt 1,2

- Travel to Egypt – Do Not Stay
- In the World NOT of the World!
- Boat in the water – water in the boat?

“Wisdom is the power to see, and the inclination to choose, the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it.” J.I. Packer, Knowing God

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3 He went on his journeys from the Negev 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 formerly; and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

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5 Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents.

Going Back to Bethel 3-5

- Back to the 'beginning'
- Bethel - 'house of God'
- Tent and Altar!
- Pilgrim and Disciple

“There is nothing more irreligious
than self-absorbed religion.”

J.I. Packer, Knowing God

6 And the land could not sustain them while dwelling together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to remain together.

7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Now the Canaanite and the Perizzite were dwelling then in the land.

8 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers.

9 Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me; if to the left, then I will go to the right; or if to the right, then I will go to the left.”

10 Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere—this was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar.

11 So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other.

4 Rivers from East:
Yarmuk
Jabok
Arnon
Zered





Choosing Poorly 6-11

- Biggest problem – getting along with family
- Too much blessing?
- Bad examples!
- Resolution to conflict = Peace
- I divide – you choose

“A test of your love for
God is to examine your
love for others.”

Henry Blackaby

12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom.

13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD.

14 The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward;

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15 for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.

16 I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered.

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17 Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you.”

18 Then Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

Choosing to Give! 8,9; 12-18

- Each settled into their choice
- Sodom had great sin – ‘resist’ or ‘flee’
- God’s expanding promise to Abram
- ‘arise and walk!’
- Tent and Altar!

"How you begin your day
will frequently determine
how you end it."

Woodrow Kroll

PROVERBS 3:5,6

Trust in the **LORD** with all **your heart**,

And do not lean on **your own understanding**,

In all **your ways** acknowledge **Him**,

And **He** will make **your paths** straight.

How to Choose – Biblically!

- Confidence in God – Col 3:15
- Consulting God's people – Prov 11:14
- Confirming in circumstances – Jonah
- *“Are you already doing everything you know is God's will for your life – before you look for more?”*

“Christian minds have been conformed to the modern spirit: the spirit, that is, that spawns great thoughts of man and leaves room for only small thoughts of God.”

J.I. Packer, Knowing God

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