

ABRAHAM

Abundance and Scarcity

Craig Smith • June 24, 2018

So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold. **(Gen. 13:1-2)**

How we view our “wealth” is all about perspective...

Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. And quarreling arose between Abram’s herdsmen and the herdsmen of Lot. **(Gen. 13:5-7a)**

- **Spirit of abundance: gratitude – what can I give?** – “So Abram said to Lot, ‘Let’s not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers. Is not the whole land before you? Let’s part company. If you go to the left, I’ll go to the right; if you go to the right, I’ll go to the left.’” **(Gen. 13:8-9)**

☞ **Note: God’s generosity should motivate ours –** “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.” **(2 Cor. 8:9)**

- **Spirit of scarcity: greed – what can I get?** – “Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar...So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom.” **(Gen. 13:10a, 11-12)**

☞ **Note: the counter punch to consumption is contentment** – “I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.” **(Phil. 4:12b)**

Faith looks past the short-term need and trusts God for the long-term gain...

The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, “Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever...Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you.” **(Gen. 13:14-15, 17)**

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. **(1 Tim. 6:6-7)**