

Part 4 – Faith's Reward

Genesis 13:14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever.

16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, *then* shall thy seed also be numbered.

17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

18 Then Abram removed *his* tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which *is* in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.

- I would imagine it a very difficult thing to see Lot choose to live his life by sight
 - knowing the end would be a hard thing for your nephew.

- I also would imagine it a difficult thing to watch the young man you'd raised since a child leave at all.
- I wonder if Abram was waiting hopefully for Lot to turn to him and say, "Uncle Abram, I don't feel I should choose, I trust that whatever way you go, when I go the other way, God will take care of me."
- Lot now has separated.
 - He chose by sight
 - while Abram let God give him his direction.
 - I wonder if Lot was not just bringing strife into their business but also into their home?
 - Once the Lot was gone, God's Word came to Abram again...
- God **had** spoken to Abram to leave Haran and go to Canaan.
- God **had** promised to deed Abram the land that he was now standing on.
 - The came the famine that made Abram go to Egypt
 - How long were they in Egypt?
 - Did Lot's wife come from Egypt?
 - What did they get in Egypt that silenced God's Word?

- What did they bring back to Bethel?
- They returned to Bethel and...
 - There was great wealth
 - There was great strife
- Abram built altars and sacrificed
 - Between Bethel and Hai
 - That's the House of God and a place of ruin
 - God's Word was silent
- **Abram had to let some things go**
 - Lot made the choice
 - Abram trusted God
- God **spoke once again** to Abram
 - God's Promise now was more succinct and specific
 - God showed Abram "the Promised Land"
 - God prophesied of Abram's legacy
- **Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.**
 - But we cannot just hear.
 - **Faith makes us move or it is not faith.**
 - Abram's faith, even though it faltered, became sight this day...
 - and yet in Hebrews 11, we find that this still was not what Abram was truly waiting for (you should try to be here on Wednesday Nights)
 - **Hebrews 11:8** By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

- **Ok, Pastor, so what does this mean to us?**
- **Is there a reward now for living by faith, or is that something we get in Heaven?**

- First, God speaks to us to call us out of our sin and into His Promise through Christ
 - This is Salvation!
 - Forsake your father the Devil's house
 - **John 8:44** "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do."
 - Have faith as you receive the Promise of Christ's Payment for your sins
 - **John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

- Second, God gives us the promise of victory in Jesus
 - A life without sin's power over us
 - **Romans 6:9** Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.
 - 10** For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

- A life we can live for His glory and our good
 - **Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.
- But expect a famine...a fight...an attack from the enemy...Don't Run back to the World
 - **2Timothy 3:12** Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
 - **Let Faith keep you IN God's Promised Victory**

- **We too often will be just like Abram and flee to what we know instead of trusting God in the unknown**
- **So, then we have to wonder/wander...**
 - How long will we be there?
 - What things will be brought back that will hinder our victory in Jesus?
 - Will God remain silent while we “do life our way”?
 - Is there a way back? (**1 John 1:9**)
- When we Repent and get back to where God wants us...
 - **Just going back doesn't make things ok**
 - There is still going to be a fight
 - **Will our well-being in Finance take precedent over our Walk in Faith?**
- We need to get back to the Altar and be the sacrifice (**Romans 12:1**)
 - Abram went back to Bethel
 - He was between Bethel and Hai
 - Bethel is The House of God, Hai is a place of ruin
 - What if God remains silent?
- It may be time to let some things go?
 - What is it that is hindering my living by faith?

- Will we live by sight or faith?
- Is there a relationship that I'm trying to fix that I need to give to the Lord?
- It's time to TRUST THE LORD (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)
 - Even when He seems to be silent, trust that He's there
 - Faith already given will be sufficient, or it won't
- **God will Speak Again**
 - His promises will seem even more real
 - He will show you greater steps
 - He will use you in greater ways

Our part is simple

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from **faith to faith**: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.