

LOT CHOSE FOR HIMSELF

Text: Genesis 13:7-13

INTRO: This passage relates the story of 2 men. Both are religious but only one really puts God first in his life. I suspect Abraham knew Lot well enough to know that he would choose the fertile Jordan valley, thus Abraham's choice is reflected in our text as well as that of Lot.

I. THE MISTAKES OF LOT. Emphasis on the material led to a gradual decline.

- A. Pitched his tent toward Sodom, vs. 12-13, KJV
- B. Dwelt in Sodom, 14:12
- C. Sat in the gate (likely implies judgeship), 19:1, 9

NOTE result: Lost his home, flocks, wife, sons-in-law, & was led by his daughters into drunkenness & fornication.

II. WHAT ABRAHAM GAVE UP FOR THE LORD.

- A. The well-watered plain -- but that's not all.
- B. Influence of abominable sinners on self & family.
- C. Losing his home, cattle, & seeing everything he had go up in smoke.
- D. Seeing his wife become a pillar of salt.
- E. Seeing his someone he loved perish in the fire of Sodom because he had lost his influence for good.
- F. Involving himself in drunkenness & fornication.
- G. Being oppressed & tormented every day.

READ 2 PETER 2:7-8

NOTE: He gave up all these things the day he gave up materialism & put the Lord first. The difference between Abraham & Lot was that Lot chose for himself -- without taking God into consideration & without considering the spiritual consequences of his choice on himself & his family.

III. WHAT HAVE YOU GIVEN UP FOR THE LORD?

A. There was a lady who became a Christian & immediately began to dress more modestly. She gave up tank tops & short shorts. She gave up being the center of attention of men whose only interest in her was lustful. She gave up being a bad influence on her daughter. Years later, she gave up having her teen-aged daughter tell her she was pregnant. Are there still mothers willing to make such a sacrifice?

B. A couple in their early 30's became children of God. Their new life demanded that they give up a form of recreation they had really learned to enjoy. But they felt that to be new creatures in Christ, they must give up their dancing. A few years later they gave up that sick feeling in the bottom of the stomach that a person gets when he realizes his mate is in love with someone else. They gave up a broken home where children can easily be injured for life. They gave up remarriage without the sanction of God. They gave up losing their souls. They gave all this the day they gave up their dancing for the sake of the Lord. They really sacrificed, didn't they?

CONCLUSION: I think by now you can get the point. Whatever you need to give up to be a better Christian is for your own good. No matter what you may have to give up, you can never out-give God. Do you need to give up something for the Lord? Resolve to do it now...

La Porte, TX, May 2, 1976

Highway 29, Liberty Hill, TX, June 2, 1976

Humphrey, AR, July 24, 1976 (meeting)

Burkeville, TX, August 27, 1976 (lectureship)

Cedar Park, TX, June 4, 1977 (meeting)

Bible camp, Sabinal, TX, June 11, 1979

Exton, PA, September 1, 1985

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, March 20, 1994