

The Choice Of Lot

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Gen. 13:10-12

The examples of men and women as recorded in the Bible can provide valuable lessons.

From Abraham we can learn the value of faith in God.

From Joseph we see the workings of God's providential care.

From Job we learn the importance of patience and faith under trial.

From Lot, the nephew of Abraham, we can also glean valuable lessons in...

The art of decision making.

The importance of making proper choices.

We will first take an introductory look at the life of Lot, and then focus upon a decision he made and how it affected his life.

Lot's choice.

In the book of Genesis, Lot is introduced to us as...

The nephew of Abraham who sojourned with him.

- Gen. 12:5, *“And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.”*
- Gen. 13:1, *“And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.”*

A man who like his uncle became quite wealthy.

Gen. 13:2-5, *“And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai; Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD. And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.”*

Because of the combined wealth of Abraham and Lot, they were forced to separate.

Gen. 13:6-9, *“And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together. And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram’s cattle and the herdmen of Lot’s cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.”*

Given the opportunity to choose where he could go, Lot made a choice, which on the surface was a good one.

Gen. 13:10-12, *“And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.”*

But as good as it may have seemed, it resulted in much sorrow and hardship for Lot!

As a result of his choice, Lot suffered...

War – Gen. 14:1-12, *“And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations; That these made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, which is Zoar. All these were joined together in the vale of Siddim, which is the salt sea. Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled. And in the fourteenth year came Chedorlaomer, and the kings that were with him, and smote the Rephaims in Ashteroth Karnaim, and the Zuzims in Ham, and the Emims in Shaveh Kiriathaim, And the Horites in their mount Seir, unto Elparan, which is by the wilderness. And they returned, and came to Enmishpat, which is Kadesh, and smote all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, that dwelt in Hazezontamar. And there went out the king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admah, and the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (the same is Zoar;) and they joined battle with them in the vale of Siddim; With Chedorlaomer the king of Elam, and with Tidal king of nations, and Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar; four kings with five. And the vale of Siddim was full of slimepits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there; and*

they that remained fled to the mountain. And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way. And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed."

Kidnapping – Gen. 14:12, *"And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed."*

Oppression and torment by the citizens of Sodom:

- 2 Pet. 2:7-8, *"And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)"*
- Gen. 19:1-11, *"And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof. And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door. But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door."*

Loss of all his material wealth:

- Gen. 19:15-16, *"And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. And*

while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.”

- Gen. 19:24-25, “*Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.”*

The death of his wife:

- Gen. 19:17, “*And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.”*
- Gen. 19:26, “*But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.”*

The example of Lot should impress us with the importance of making the proper choices in our lives. In view of what happened to Lot, we will now consider...

Some of the choices we make that greatly affect our lives.

Some suggestions on how to make the right decisions.

What to do when we realize that we have made the wrong ones.

Consider, then...

Our choices.

What choices do we make that greatly affect our lives?

The one that will affect your life more than any other: The choice to follow Jesus!

It will determine your place in eternity.

It will have a bearing on every other choice you make; for as a follower of Christ you will be concerned with doing His will, not your own.

Choosing your career.

The choice you make can have a lasting effect upon your marriage, family, and your service to God.

Even from a worldly viewpoint, your choice is important, for the job market can change drastically.

Choosing your mate.

The decision made will to a great extent determine your degree of happiness in this life.

It will have a permanent bearing on your children and their emotional well-being!

Choosing your friends.

Having close friends can be a wonderful blessing.

Prov. 17:17, “*A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*”

But the wrong friends can be a curse for the righteous.

- Prov. 12:26, “*The righteous is more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them.*”
- 1 Cor. 15:33, “*Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.*”

Choosing where you will live.

It was in this choice that Lot made his mistake.

It might just be there are some modern-day “Sodom’s” and “Gomorrahs”!

How can we more likely make the right choice?

Ask God for wisdom.

James 1:5-8, “*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*”

Seek advice from others.

- Pro 11:14, “*Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.*”
- Prov. 12:15, “*The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.*”

Discuss your alternatives with older, mature Christians.

Consult the wisdom found in the Bible (especially in a book like Proverbs).

Whatever you do, do it for the Lord's sake.

- Psalms 37:5-6, *“Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.”*
- Psalms 37:23-26, *“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.”*
- James 4:15, *“For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”*

What should we do when we realize our choice was wrong?

Do what Lot did:

Heed the word of God (as in fleeing Sodom and Gomorrah).
Do what is right without reservation (remember Lot's wife!).

Do what Peter did after he denied Christ:

Repent, if there is sin involved in the choice made.
Resolve to serve the Lord.

Do what Paul did after persecuting the church:

Accept the forgiveness Jesus provides.
Determine to live for the Lord the rest of your life to the best of your ability.

The wrong thing to do is to continue in the bad choice because of pride or some other reason! (although there are some choices we must live with.).

Conclusion.

The example of Lot should serve...

To teach us that making the proper decision is very important.

To warn us not to make our choices lightly.

“Remember Lot” the next time you are faced with an important decision.

Seek to make that decision based upon the will of the Lord and not your own.

Your eternal destiny (and that of those you love) might rest upon your choice!

Have you made the most important decision you will ever face? The decision to follow Jesus as your Lord and Savior? If not, why not today? You must become a Christian. The following are the steps necessary to make that happen:

- **Faith.** Heb. 11:6, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* When I was in high school (I was about 17 years old), a neighbor boy my same age told me he was an atheist. Since I had been baptized, I took the opportunity to talk to him about the scriptures. He told me that he could see that living the life of a Christian was good, but he wasn’t sure if he believed there was a God. But to be on the safe side, maybe he should go to church, and when he dies and stands before God (if there is a God) on the day of Judgment (if there is a Judgment), maybe if God sees that he has gone to church and lived a good life that God would send him to heaven (if there is a heaven), and not to hell (if there is a hell). I told him, “It doesn’t work that way. You have to believe in Him with all your heart or you cannot please Him.”
- **Repentance.** Acts 2:38, *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* Acts 11:18, *“... Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.”* If while you were sleeping, you heard a noise in the other room, and you think to yourself, “There’s a burglar in my house!” So you reach for your cell phone, and as quietly as you can, you call the police, tell them there is a burglar in your house, and you give them your address. Soon, you heard them arrive and capture the thief. He yells, “I’m sorry; I’m sorry!” What is he sorry for? He is sorry that he got caught; not that he stole. In true repentance the thief would be sorry that he ever stole and wants to change his life so that he would never steal again. That is true repentance. It is a change of mind that brings about a change of action. That is what we have to do before we can become a Christian.
- **Confession.** Rom. 10:9-10, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath*

raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” What do we confess? That we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Note that in the above scriptures that faith (believing), repentance, and confession are “**UNTO**” righteousness, life, or salvation. “Unto” means toward something; not that one has already attained.

- **Baptism.** It is baptism where righteousness, life, and salvation are attained. Jesus, himself, was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, “*But John forbid him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*” (Matt. 3:14-17). Jesus was baptized because God said it was the right thing to do. Did you see how pleased God was about Jesus being baptized? Jesus also said “*it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.*” We are baptized because it fulfills His righteousness, not because it is of our righteousness.

In fact, if we are not baptized, we are still in our sins. “*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*” (Acts 2:38). Peter, what did you say the reason of baptism is? “for the remission of sins”. Why would anyone want to leave out the step that removes our sins?

Jesus commanded that to reach salvation we must be baptized. “*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth **and** is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*” (Mark 16:15-16).

Ananias told Saul (before he was rename Paul) the very same thing, “*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*” (Acts 22:16). Baptism is a requirement given by God.

Baptism is called a burial. “*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*” (Rom. 6:4). Our old man is to be dead to us. “*Know ye not, that*

so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” (Rom. 6:3-6). Baptism is God’s blueprint for applying the blood of Christ in our lives by baptism. We are free from our old sins only when we are baptized.

This doesn’t mean “sprinkling. The scripture above says baptism is a burial. We don’t take a dead body to the cemetery and sprinkle a little dirt over it; we bury the body.

If you have not yet become a Christian, won't you consider it today?

