

Choose Life

“*God of the Movement*” Series – Part 06

Connect: What is one goal that you plan to accomplish during your lifetime?

Hook:

There is a point along the Continental Divide high in the Rocky Mountains in Colorado at which the waters of a small stream separate. It would not seem to matter much whether a drop of water goes to the left or to the right. But the destination of those drops of water is totally different. One drop goes to the west and eventually flows into the Colorado River and empties into the Gulf of California and the Pacific Ocean. Another drop goes east until it flows into the Mississippi River and dumps into the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Two drops of water, two entirely different destinations, but one small turning point determines the outcome.

Many choices in life are like those drops of water. At the time they don't seem significant. But those choices set in motion a series of events which may shape your life and the lives of your children and grandchildren after you.

Since seemingly small decisions can have such momentous consequences, how can we protect ourselves from making wrong choices? Let's look to the story of Lot's choice and search for crucial lessons about our life's choices:

Book:

Gen 13:5 Lot, who was traveling with Abram, had also become very wealthy with flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and many tents.

Gen 13:6 But the land could not support both Abram and Lot with all their flocks and herds living so close together.

Gen 13:7 So disputes broke out between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot. (At that time Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land.)

Gen 13:8 Finally Abram said to Lot, "Let's not allow this conflict to come between us or our herdsmen. After all, we are close relatives!"

Gen 13:9 The whole countryside is open to you. Take your choice of any section of the land you want, and we will separate. If you want the land to the left, then I'll take the land on the right. If you prefer the land on the right, then I'll go to the left."

Gen 13:10 Lot took a long look at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar. The whole area was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the LORD or the beautiful land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)

Gen 13:11 Lot chose for himself the whole Jordan Valley to the east of them. He went there with his flocks and servants and parted company with his uncle Abram.

Gen 13:12 So Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot moved his tents to a place near Sodom and settled among the cities of the plain.

Gen 13:13 But the people of this area were extremely wicked and constantly sinned against the LORD.

Gen 13:14 After Lot had gone, the LORD said to Abram, "Look as far as you can see in every direction—north and south, east and west.

Gen 13:15 I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendants as a permanent possession.

Gen 13:16 And I will give you so many descendants that, like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted!

Gen 13:17 Go and walk through the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you."

Gen 13:18 So Abram moved his camp to Hebron and settled near the oak grove belonging to Mamre. There he built another altar to the LORD.

Look:

Why were the herdsmen arguing among themselves?

What became priority for Abraham when he was made aware of the dispute?

What warnings might one see in this story when it comes to acquiring wealth?

What seems to be the priority for Lot when he made his choice?

In this story, Lot made several choices. Look at the following choices and discuss the merits of each one:

1. He looked toward the region of the Jordan Valley
2. He moved closer to the city of Sodom
3. He moved into the city of Sodom
4. He is "sitting at the gate" (became a city official) in Sodom

How was Abraham different from his nephew when it came to making a choice?

When (if ever) is it right to fight for your rights, and when is it right to give in?

Is it necessarily wrong for Christians to desire a better lifestyle?

How do we determine where to draw the line when it comes to amassing possessions?

Are you more prone to withdraw from the world or to join in with it? How does a Christian find the right balance?

To what extent can we influence our children's choices in the world in which we live?

What is the one big lesson you want to take away from this story?