

The Parable of Lot & Abram: Walk by Faith, Not by Sight

Gen. 13:1-18

Chase Fluhart

Sunday, March 12, 2023

I. Introduction: Parabolic History

Much of Abraham's life is given to us as a kind of _____ or pattern for the history of the nation of Israel, and also for the Christian church—and it's for our instruction. God likes to tell the same story over and over again in different ways. This means that we must learn to be attentive to the biblical histories delivered to us, because in them God is telling *our* story. Genesis is history, but it is not merely history. It is *parabolic history*.

II. Text: Genesis 13:1-18

[. . .] 10 And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. [. . .] 14 And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward;[. . .]"

III. "Lot lifted up his eyes and saw. . ."

Lot saw the land, that it was like the Garden of the Lord. The plain of Jordan appeals to Lot because it promises rest. It promises a return to some good lost on account of the Fall. Not only this, but it's like the land of _____. It is not simply the Egypt that Abram and Lot came out from, but the Egypt that _____ came out from. This is very telling (Numb 16:3; Isa. 30:1-3); it is a loaded phrase that warns of destruction. It tells you Lot's desire is not going to end well. It looked good to his eyes, but its end will be ruin. In the words of Solomon: "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12) This is exactly what we will see play out in Lot's life.

There were red flags waving all about Lot's head, yet he didn't see them. He was blinded. What did Lot *not* see?

- **First**, he did not see that he had grown fat and quarrelsome (v. 8). He's blinded by the good land before his eyes and by his own high esteem of himself, and he cannot see that he is dishonoring Abram.
- **Second**, he did not see that it was on account of his attachment to Abram, the household of God's blessing, that Lot also was blessed. Rather than clinging to Abram, and refusing to separate from him, Lot departs foolishly (cf. Ruth 1:16-17).
- **Third**, he did not see that leaving the land of the promise was not what Abram had in mind. "If you take the *north*, then I will go *south*; if you take the *south*, I will go *north*." But Lot went *east* (v. 11)—he went east into *exile*.
- **Fourth**, Lot did not see that the inhabitants of Sodom were *wicked* (v. 13), and that it would be doomed to *destruction* (v. 10).

IV. The Lord said to Abram, "Lift up your eyes and see. . ."

In contrast to Lot, the Lord now says to Abram, "Lift up your eyes and see. . ." (v. 14). What did *Abram* see? Did he see a land rich and well-watered everywhere? Was it a land like the Garden of the Lord, like Eden itself? Was it prosperous like the land of Egypt? No, not at all. Instead, *the Lord told him what he should see*. Abram was not to look at the appearance of the land, but he was to see what the land would *become*, according to the _____. He was to judge, not by the sight of his eyes, but with the eye of _____ (2 Cor. 5:7).

V. The Parable of Abram & Lot

In Lot, the Lord has given us a parable of the man who walks by the sight of his bodily eyes (2 Cor. 5:7), who judges things according to the _____ (Jn. 8:15), who lifts up his eyes and sees a way that looks good to him, only to tread down it to his own destruction.

In contrast to this, in Abraham, we have the parable of a man who walks by _____, who holds up the Word of God as his torch, and sees the world by its light. He doesn't lift up his eyes to look around at what the world presents to him. Rather, he hears *God* say, "Lift up your eyes, and see," and he listens to how God describes the world, and how God's promises will shape it. In Abraham, we see the man who rejoices to walk in the land of the promise, the land of the *not-yet*, the blessed land.

Temptations for Single People

There is no shortage of _____ in our day to things that look good, but are obtained by departing from the way of the Lord.

- 1 Cor. 15:33-34: *Evil company corrupts good habits. Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God.*
- 2 Cor. 6:14-16: *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."*

Temptations for Parents

It can be tempting to walk by the light of *what looks good* in how you raise your children, rather than by the light of God's Word.

- As Jim Wilson would say, "There are not strong-willed children, only weak-willed parents." In other words, if your child is a tyrant, it's because you are a _____.
- Every year new, easier parenting ways are set before your eyes; but their end is destruction—in this case, the destruction of your kids. Don't go to Sodom and Gomorrah—and especially don't put your kids under their care! Remain in the land of the promise. The work is not easy. But the reward for your labors will be glorious (cf. 127:3-5; 144:12).

The Temptation of Money

Money is not a bad thing. Abraham had riches, given to him by God. But when we begin to set our hearts on money, we become blind to all the pitfalls surrounding it. So it was with Lot, and so it goes with many.

- 1 Tim. 6:10: *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

The Lord says to you, "Lift up your eyes and see what all of this will come to." Look past the mere appearances and the façade that the world sets up before your eyes. Stop ignoring the red flags flying all about your head. And listen to what God says all these things will become.

VI. Conclusion