

Genesis Behind the Curtain: Abraham's Journey of Faith
Episode 4: Worship at the Idol of "Mine"

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Genesis 13:5-17

Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. ⁶But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. ⁷And quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.⁸ So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. ⁹Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."¹⁰ Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) ¹¹So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: ¹²Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. ¹³Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.¹⁴ The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. ¹⁵All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. ¹⁶I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. ¹⁷Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

This passage highlights 3 important spiritual truths:

1. There is always a cost to partial obedience.
2. Faith does not worship at the idol of "MINE".
3. God recalibrates the errors of the righteous.

1. There is always a cost to partial obedience: Vs. 5 *Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together.*

1. Abram was experiencing the result of partial obedience. Lot was never supposed to be on the journey and we now have the potential for a broken family relationship.

2. Faith does not worship at the idol of "MINE": Vs. 9 *Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."*

- a. Abram's wealth had become a burden.
- b. Abram was starting to get faith right, and in this passage, showed that he did not worship at the idol of "MINE".

"Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. It is the belief that God will do what is right." -Max Lucado

3. God recalibrates the errors of the righteous: Vs. 14 *The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. ¹⁵All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.*

Small Group Questions:

1. Abram took a huge step of faith leaving his home to follow God, but he hedged his bets by taking Lot when he was told not to by God. Now Abram was paying the price. Have you ever hedged your obedience with God? What happened?
2. Abram was willing to let Lot choose the pick of the litter when it came to the promised land, even though God had given it to Abram. Why would Abraham do this? Would you?
3. Abram's wealth had become a burden. In a world that often sees wealth as the ultimate goal, what would you consider some of wealth's possible challenges?
4. Max Lucado said, "Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. It is the belief that God will do what is right." Can you explain what that means? Do you have a personal example?
5. God recalibrates the errors of the righteous. Have you ever experienced this? Why would God do this when we have obviously strayed?