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La Jolla Christian Fellowship
GENESIS. Behind The Curtain: Abraham – Part 2
Episode 7: The Downfall of Lot – Part 1
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The life of Lot paints a vivid picture of how one can be righteous, yet make unwise decisions that lead to a deficiency of blessing and eventual destruction.

1. **The cost of partial obedience.**
2. **Stay near the blessing.**

Who was Lot?

Abraham's Nephew—Gen 11:27 This is the account of Terah's family line. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of **Lot**.

- Abraham was close to Lot, and Lot would have been his heir had Abraham not eventually had children.

A Righteous Man— 2 Peter 2:6-8 if he (**God**) condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; ⁷ **and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man**, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless ⁸ (**for that righteous man, living among them** day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)

1. **The Cost Of Partial Obedience.**
2. **Stay Near the Blessing.**

1. **The Cost Of Partial Obedience.**

Gen 12:4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and **Lot** went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

- **Lot is mentioned as having left with Abraham three times (Gen 12:4,5-13:1)**
- **Lot was never supposed to go with Abraham in the first place.**
 - **Gen 12:1** The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.
 - **Gen 12:4-5a** So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot.

Due to the decision of partial obedience by Abraham, Abraham was forced to go to negotiate for territory with Lot creating family disunity, go to war to save Lot and be party to creating two nations which would trouble the Israelites for generations to come.

2. **Stay near the blessing—** Over the course of year, Lot chose to move further away from the thing God was doing and closer and closer to that which God was rejecting.

Abraham was the heart of the blessing and whom he blessed got blessed: Gen 12:3

Gen 13:5-9 Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. ⁶ 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. ⁷ And 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. 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."

Tent Pitching: Where you pitch your tent matter.

Gen 13:11-12 Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: ¹² Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and **pitched his tents near Sodom.**

- Where are you pitching your tent?
- Lot's tent pitching became tent ditching.
 - **Gen 14:11** The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food; then they went away. ¹² They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, **since he was living in Sodom.**

Questions for Small Groups:

1. It took awhile for Abraham to finally offer God full obedience. How comfortable are you with "partial obedience"?
2. What problems has partial obedience caused you?
3. One of the sermon points was to stay near the blessing. What could that mean in your life?
4. Is there anywhere that you are currently pitching your tent that perhaps needs to be vacated?
5. Why would Lot sacrifice the blessed life in the pasture that he had been living to move into a wicked city?