

INTRODUCTION

In Genesis 13:2 we have the first mention in the Bible of a rich man: "And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold."

In contrast to Abram's wealth we read of Lot's possessions in Genesis 13:5: "And lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents."

IN OUR LESSON TODAY

1. We have before us a rich man and a man not so rich: Abram and his nephew Lot.
2. Let us see what rich men do when they are put to the test.
3. Also, let us see what a man not so rich will do under like circumstances. We look first at:

LOT1. AND LOT LIFTED UP HIS EYES. Gen. 13:10

1. He looked upon the well watered plain of Jordan and it was so attractive that he "pitched his tent toward Sodom." Gen. 13:12. What kind of men lived in Sodom?

1. Genesis 13:13; "But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly."

2. LOT'S TROUBLE

1. He walked by sight rather than by faith. 2 Cor. 5:7

2. The power of the temptation:

1. The good of one alternative was present while the other seemed so distant.

1. The well watered plain of Jordan could be had at sight.

2. The other, the promises of God, only through faith.

3. Some examples of men walking by sight:

1. When Esau is pained and famished by hunger, why should he not give up a far-away thing like his birthright for the present good. Gen. 25:32; "Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me."

2. Judas, with the sound of silver in his ear reasoned that it would be good to get that much gain out of what was to him a sinking cause. Matt. 26:14-16

3. Demas, with Paul in prison, the company of missionaries scattered, coupled with the might of Rome barring the way, was unwilling to fight for what seemed to him to be an intangible dream. 2 Tim. 4:10

1. These were all blind and could not see afar off. 2 Pet. 1:9

2. They were walking by sight completely, governed by the tangible; that which they could see.

3. Lesson to learn: To exercise self-control for the sake of a future blessing, to put off a present good for a prospective good, needs strength of character and will, and, above all, FAITH.

4. "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" is reasoning that walks by sight and not by faith.

1. I see this bird in my hand: the tangible, but I can not see the two in the bush, the intangible.

4. In making his choice it was necessary for Lot to:

1. Shut his eyes to the risks of such a move to his children.

2. He had to argue that it was for their good that he made the choice.

3. It was to make money for them, and advance them in life.

3. ABRAM

1. Abram built an altar "and there Abram called on the name of the Lord. Gen. 13:4

1. Abram walked by faith and not by sight.

2. Abram's speech to Lot:

1. Gen. 13:9, "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."

1. Lot made his choice in pitching his tent toward Sodom while Abram's choice was to build an altar for worship to God.

3. Abram's plea to Lot: "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between thy herdmen and my herdmen; for we be brethren." Gen. 13:8

JESS HALL, MINISTER
100 MAPLEWOOD PLACE
GLASGOW, KENTUCKY

RESIDENCE: 651-5409
CHURCH: 651-5001

Church of Christ

SOUTH GREEN STREET GLASGOW, KENTUCKY 42141

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A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE BY ABRAM

1. Good pictures hard to come by.

1. In this picture by Abram we see a very difficult thing to do. Not many can paint a such a picture. In the picture we see:

1. Strength stooping (bowing) to weakness: Abram the strong giving way to Lot the weak.
2. This is a very hard thing for Strength to do.

2. A good motto for all time:

1. Abrams words, "let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren," would make a good motto today for every kitchen, for every parlour, for the factory, and for the Church.

3. A speech Lot might have made: "No, mine uncle, this shall never be; I am the younger; I am but a follower, without thee I cannot stand; if we must part, the choice shall be thine, and what thou dost leave I will take."

1. What a beautiful speech for any young man to make, so full of tender pathos.
2. Unfortunately, Lot never made that speech as you know.

SOUTH GREEN STREET - CLEVELAND, OHIO

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CHURCH - 527-8001
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MEMORIAL - 527-2700

Church of Christ
SOUTH GREEN STREET GLASGOW, KENTUCKY 42141

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