

March 10, 2024 – Sermon Notes

“The 13:9 Solution” Genesis 13:1-18

Prel Rmks

Text ~ Title

(1) Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South.
(2) Abram *was* very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.
(3) And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, **(4)** to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the LORD. **(5)** Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. **(6)** Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together. **(7)** And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land.
(8) So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we *are* brethren. **(9)** *Is* not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If *you take* the left, then I will go to the right; or, if *you go* to the right, then I will go to the left." **(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. **(11)** Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. **(12)** Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched *his* tent even as far as Sodom. **(13)** But the men of Sodom *were* exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.
(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; **(15)** for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. **(16)** And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, *then* your descendants also could be numbered. **(17)** Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."
(18) Then Abram moved *his* tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which *are* in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.

INTRO

Spiritual Failure

Abram no doubt had a lot of things going through his mind and heart

Embarrassed – humiliating

He was no doubt disappointed in himself

But as he continued to reflect, it must have begun to dawn on him that God had taken care of him – preserved him and his family

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. **(2)** I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. **(3)** I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 12:6-7 Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites *were* then in the land. **(7)** Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "**To your descendants I will give this land.**" And there **he built an altar** to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

An altar is for sacrifice – a blood sacrifice

Abram approached God on God's terms! ...

The Place 1-4

The Problem 5-7

The Paths 8-18

I. The Place 1-4

There was one place Abram wanted to get back to ...

(1)

Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and **his wife**
and **all that he had**, v.2
and Lot with him,

Lot has traveled everywhere with his Uncle Abram, so now he goes
with him back to Canaan

to the **South**.

Not the direction they were traveling.

It describes a region: **Negeb (Negev) = parched (from drought), the South, southern part of Palestine or the Promised Land, desert region**

(2)

Abram *was* very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

(3)

And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel,
to the place where his tent had been at the beginning,
between Bethel and Ai,

(4)

to the place of **the altar** which he had made there at first. And **there**
Abram called on the name of the LORD.

Genesis 12:8 And he moved from **there Shechem** **to the mountain** east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent *with* **Bethel house of God** on the west and **Ai heap of ruins** on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

1. Abram wanted to get back to the place of the altar and to the place where he had communed with God in prayer.
2. God is giving us a picture here in His Word ...

“Communion with Me” OR “A heap of ruins”

3. Not necessarily a real, literal, physical place ... but a place in our lives, spiritually speaking, where we were at one time with the Lord.

To that altar we had with God where we met Him on His terms.

To that time of prayer and communion with Him.

What about you?

II. The Problem 5-7

(5)

Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents.

(6)

Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together.

God had blessed them both in a tremendous way

He had protected them from loss

Genesis 12:20 So Pharaoh commanded *his* men concerning him; and they sent him away, with his wife and all that he had.

(7)

And there was **strife conflict, disputes** between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. **The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land.**

Ongoing strife

1. The certainty of problems and difficulties in life.

Job 14:1 "Man *who* is born of woman Is of few days and full of trouble.

John 16:33 **These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."**

2. We need to teach our children and prepare them ...
3. God often uses the trials and the problems and the conflicts and the tribulations of this life to direct or redirect our lives.

III. The Paths 8-18

In these verses we see 2 paths that can be taken in life.

2 ways of living or walking through this world

The path of walking by sight ~ The path of walking by faith

No where else in the Bible is the contrast between these 2 paths presented in such dramatic fashion

(8)

So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; **for we are brethren v.7.**

(9)

Is not the whole land before you? **Please separate from me kindly.** If *you take* the left, then I will go to the right; or, if *you go* to the right, then I will go to the left."

The 13:9 solution

Abram had learned something – God can be trusted

Here we see Abram operating in faith – being magnanimous to his younger relative– deferring to him – not insisting on his “rights”

Philippians 2:2-3 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. **(3)** *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Relationships ... preserve relationships ~ prevent broken relationships

The 13:9 solution involves faith. When you have problems resulting in conflicts or potential conflicts, you trust God and love others!

That's not the world's way ... but it's God's way for His people, and it would help us solve a lot of relationship problems and avoid a lot of trouble in our lives ...

The Path of Living by Sight

(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.

(11)

Then **Lot chose for himself** all the plain of Jordan, and **Lot journeyed east**. And **they separated from each other**.

(12)

Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and **Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain** and **pitched his tent even as far as Sodom**.

(13)

But the men of Sodom *were* exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.

2 Peter 2:7-8 and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked **(8)** (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)—

Living or walking by sight results in disaster.

The Path of Living By Faith

(14)

And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: **"Lift your eyes now**

Another Promise By God to Abram 14b-16

and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; {Lookout Mountain in Chattanooga – 7 states}

(15)

for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.

(16)

And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; **in what way?:**

so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, *then* your descendants also could be numbered.

(17)

Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

Common legal real estate ritual – walk around the perimeter to claim ownership – to establish clear legal title to a portion of land – stake your claim

(18)

Then Abram moved *his* tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which *are* in Hebron **place of association**, and built an altar there to the LORD.

Applications / Implications

1. **The real distinction is walking by faith or walking in blindness.**

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2. **As believers we must continually trust God as we journey through life.**

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Romans 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *he does* not *eat* from faith; for **whatever is not from faith is sin.**

3. **Is there a place you need to get back to in your life? Spiritually?**

{Revelation 2 – Church at Ephesus = “left your first love”

“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; **repent turn back – go back to that point** and do the first works”

4. **We need to practice the 13:9 Solution ...**

It would help us with our relationship problems

Trust God

Love others – think of them ahead of ourselves