

## Gen 13:1-18

### Sermon notes:

Key point: The people of God must be careful to remain sojourners

Three people that show us this point:

- 1) Lot
  - a) His heart envied the land
  - b) Trying to prove ourselves.. "chariots of fire" example. We're searching for what the garden originally provided.
  - c) Do we value "Heaven over Hell but not Heaven over Earth"?
- 2) Abram
  - a) He had relationships to God, to Lot, to wealth... he had to cut one.
  - b) Chose to accept the area that would have trials, to trust God
  - c) A Pilgrim finds freedom in the promises of God
- 3) Jesus - tempted by Satan on the top of the mountain.
  - a) He chose to trust God rather than to shortcut with Satan's methods. He took on poverty so that we might become rich (2 Cor 8:9)

### Reflect:

- 1) Sean's key point was that "the people of God must be careful to remain sojourners." What threatens our sojourner mentality these days? How can we fight those threats?
- 2) Test your foundations: where do you turn to when things aren't going well? How do you handle failure and trials? Or, put a different way, how do you medicate your pain in life?
- 3) Satan tempted Jesus to take a shortcut and he refused. Abram similarly trusted God to provide in his timing. In what ways are you tempted to try to shortcut God's plan? How can you take steps to trust God instead?
- 4) Since God made an awesome creation with wonderfully-creative people, there are lots of great things on this earth, even though it remains sin-cursed currently. But these things can also steal our hearts. Sean quoted a commentator who suggested that Lot was the type of person who would value Heaven over Hell, but not Heaven over Earth. What tempts you to value Earth over Heaven? How can you value what is eternal instead?
- 5) Sean noted that "a pilgrim finds freedom in the promises of God." How have you found this to be true in your own life? What promises can you be freed by, in regards to the issues mentioned above?

### Study:

- 1) In 2 Peter 2:7-8, we read that Lot was "righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard)." How does this inform our overall perspective of Lot? How can "righteous Lot's" poor decision in Genesis 13 help challenge us to keep watch over ourselves?
- 2) Sean referred to Hebrews 11:8 as "the answer key to this story (in Genesis)." Read Heb 11:8-10 and discuss what it was that empowered Abraham to follow and trust God. In

what ways do these motivations line up with the Gospel, and how can we reflect this in our own life?

**Pray:**

- 1) Scripture: Read 2 Cor 8:9: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.” Pray together in reflection on this verse.
- 2) Identity: As you pray, keep in mind our identity as pilgrims who have an inheritance that is “imperishable, undefiled and unfading” (1 Peter 1:4-5)
- 3) Redemption: remember that God has not saved us for instant-Heaven. His wise plan has included refining us through trials in this life as we seek to rescue unbelievers, and bringing us to glory eventually. Pray in recognition that God is using all these things to bring us to eternity one day. Our hope is not that this lifetime will be perfect, but that eternity will be.