

Lesson 9
Abraham and Lot
Text: Genesis 14

Introduction

Being selfish and trying to get the best for yourself can sometimes leave you with nothing at all. That's what happened to Lot, Abraham's nephew.

The Story

God blessed Abram, and he became very rich. Lot, his nephew, became wealthy, too. After awhile they both had so many sheep there wasn't enough pasture land for them all. Abram's herdsmen and Lot's herdsmen began to fight over the grazing land.

God promised the land to Abram. Abram could have said, "There's not enough grass for both of us, Lot, so I guess you'd better leave."

Abram was unselfish, though, and gave Lot the first choice of land. He said, "Pick the land you want, and I'll take the second choice."

Lot took him up on his word, and picked the best grazing land. He chose the well-watered plains near the big cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The grass grew thick and lush. It looked almost like the Garden of Eden. You'd think he would have let Abram have the best part, wouldn't you? But he picked the best for himself. His selfishness was the start of big trouble.

The people who lived in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah did disgusting, sinful things. At first Lot didn't live in the city, but pitched his tent outside the gate. Before long, he was living right in the middle of all that wickedness. Do you think he should have stayed there? No, God doesn't want us to spend our time with people who don't love Him and who do bad things. When you are always with bad people, you get to be just like them. That's why we should be careful to choose our friends wisely. If you hang around with people who use bad words and do bad things, soon you will

be doing the same things.

Lot lived in the wicked city of Sodom, and, although he didn't like the vile things they did, he gradually got used to them.

In those days there were many groups of people in the land. Each one had its own king. While Lot was living in Sodom, some of the kings got together and decided to gang up on the others and conquer them. King Chedorlaomer and the kings who were his allies marched through the land, conquering cities and taking captives. They came to the city of Sodom and fought there, too. They won a great victory, and took all the riches of the city for spoil. They captured all the people and took them for slaves. Lot and his family were captured, too.

Abram could have said, "Well, that's good enough for him. He shouldn't have been selfish, and he shouldn't have been living in that wicked city. I guess now he'll be sorry."

Instead, Abram went immediately to help him. He armed all his 300 servants and he got the help of some neighboring kings. Then he went after Chedorlaomer and his men.

They attacked at night when the enemy army didn't expect any trouble. They won a great victory and chased Chedorlaomer's army out of the country. Abram brought back all the people of Sodom and the treasures the invaders had taken away. Can you imagine how grateful the king of Sodom must have been? He offered all the treasure to Abram as a reward.

Abram refused a reward, though. He didn't want anyone to say that a wicked king had made him rich. He wanted everyone to know that God gave him his wealth.

"I will not take even a thread or a shoelace from you," he said.

God, Himself, gave Abram a reward.

He said, "Fear not, Abram. I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward."

Abram reminded God of what he really wanted. God had promised to give the land to

Abram's children and grandchildren. But Abram had no children. More than anything, he wanted a son.

God spoke to him and said, "I will give you a son. Look up at the stars. Can you count them?"

Of course, no one could count all the stars.

"Just as you can't count all the stars, you won't be able to count all the descendants you will have. They will be a very great nation."

Abram didn't even have one child, and God said he would be the father of a great nation. That must be been a little hard to believe. But the Bible says that Abram believed God, and God counted it to him for righteousness.

The Life Lesson

Lot was selfish - wanting the best for himself. That's because he wanted to rule his own life and to be his own little god. But, Abram believed and surrendered to the true God. He wasn't perfect. We've learned that nobody is good enough for God. But when we put our trust in Jesus, and believe that His shed blood is the only payment for our sins, God will count it to us for righteousness, just as He did for Abram.

Review Questions

Who was Abram's nephew?

Lot

Why were the herdsmen fighting?

Lot and Abram had so many sheep that there wasn't enough grass to go around.

Who choose his land first?

Abram let Lot choose first.

What land did Lot pick?

The plains near Sodom and Gomorrah.

What were the people in Sodom like?

They were wicked.

Why was it a bad idea for Lot to live near the wicked city?

Because soon he was living in the city with the wicked people.

What happened to Lot when he lived in Sodom?

An enemy king invaded and took him captive.

Who rescued Lot and his family?

Abram