

**First Southern Baptist Church - September 25, 2019**  
**Lot's Choice - Gen. 13**

**Introduction:**

1. Abram's faith is tested... again
2. This story makes best sense in the story of Sodom and Gomorrah
3. Three Lot Stories
  - A. Lot's choice - Gen 13
  - B. Lot's rescue - Gen 14:1-24
  - D. Lot flees Sodom - Gen 18-19
  - E. What is the meaning of the stories?
    - a background for the Abram stories/ contrast
    - opposites distinguish the lineage... and help to teach right and wrong
      - 1) Isaac and Ishmael
      - 2) Jacob and Esau
    - he is not a legitimate heir to the promise
    - Abram becomes the promised one... and blesses Lot in the process
  - F. Lot's descendants (19:37-38)
    - Moab - Moabites
    - Ammon - Ammonites
    - Therefore God instructs them to avoid battle against them

**I. A Quarrel is the "Cause" of the Choice**

1. Their respective wealth became a problem
  - Abram had received livestock from Pharaoh (12:16)
  - assume also silver and gold (like Abimelech in 20:16)
2. Word "quarrel" is "*rib*" in the Hebrew - a controversy
  - a legal term for a contention
  - the first of many disputes between the descendants of Lot and those of Abram
3. The land could not "support" them (6)
  - water and grazing disputes

**II. Abram's Generosity**

1. He risks everything - or is that faith?
2. Reminds of Isaac digging wells
3. He trusts the promise:
  - so he is able to be free-hearted
  - similar to you and I -trusting God with our "tithe"
4. He had a different perception of life... and economic reality
  - we believe in the philosophy of scarcity... there is not enough, there will not be enough
5. Jesus comments on "scarcity" and "plenty" at Luke 12:13-32 - Covetousness - in the two passages:
  - A. The rich farmer (Luke 12:13-21)
  - B. The "take no thought" passage (Luke 12:22-32)

- anxiety (22, 25)
- covetousness, abundance Choice
- little faith (28)

6. Compare chapter 12 - Abram gambles Sarai
  - with chapter 13 - Abram is generous
  - In 12 - he has no thought for Sarai... only himself
  - In 13 - he takes no thought for himself, or tomorrow

### III. Lot Chooses

1. He has first choice/ option
  - Abram is generous - as the elder of the two he had the right of choice
2. Choice
  - Similar to Eve's choice in the garden
  - He is separating himself from the blessing
3. The decision is told in a solemn manner
  - “eyes” - 10
  - “saw” - 10
  - “watered” - 10
  - “destroyed” - 10
  - “garden” - 10
  - “you enter” - 10
  - “chose” - 11
4. The plain is attractive to Lot
  - like the well-watered garden of Eden
  - infatuated?
  - can't help but remember that this land will be scorched after fire falls on Sodom (19:28)
5. Sodom and Gomorrah become iconic for places of evil
  - Sodom and Gomorrah are two of the five cities of the plain (14:2, 8) - Sodom becomes the city most prominent in Genesis
  - the male population is marked by their sinfulness/ “wicked” - 13
  - the word used before the flood - “wicked” 6:5 and 8:21
  - what are their sins?
    - 1) sexual sins
    - 2) sins against the stranger in their land - Lot and family are “aliens” - 19:9
    - 3) sins against the widow and orphan
  - destruction of Sodom echoes the flood story
  - sins “against the Lord”
  - become a standard of depravity
6. A good man made a bad choice
  - he saw
    - he chose
      - he separated
      - he journeyed east
      - he pitched his tent toward Sodom

-he dwelt there

-became an elder

-daughters married

A man doesn't choose to be dishonest, or an alcoholic, to dishonor marriage vows, or shame his family... he chooses to start out on an easy road

7. He did not:

-seek to find God's will

-consider ultimate consequences

-take some time - impulsive

8. Two contrasting peoples:

**Abram**

Lived by faith

Generous

City whose builder is God

Father of believers

Heir of the world

**Lot**

Lived by sight

Greedy

City

Father of unbelievers

Dwells in a cave (19:30)

9. His choice ultimately brought

-disaster to wife and humiliation to his daughters

-no man is an island

10. Collapses of character and tragic and moral and spiritual decline do not happen suddenly

### **Conclusion:**

Abram builds another altar (verse 18)