



Our Life's Journey

Genesis 13

Leaving the perishable to gain the promised

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Introduction

Abram's faith is kindred to ours, linking us with our eternal Father. Genesis 13 records his difficulty with obedience, but also the wonderful rewards that followed when he finally obeyed. Our spiritual lives are journeys in which God patiently teaches, corrects, and strengthens our faith.

"Let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." (Hebrews 12:1)

Lesson outline

1. Recovering from Mistakes (Genesis 13:1-4)

- Abram returned from Egypt to the Negev - a miracle of grace after a serious detour.
- He returned "as far as Bethel," to the place where his tent and altar had been at the beginning.
- There Abram again called on the name of the LORD.
- The phrase "and Lot with him" shows that an earlier compromise still needed to be resolved.

Lessons that strengthen faith

- God seriously desires to bless me.
- God is patient and forgiving.
- God sovereignly controls circumstances to bless and correct me.
- God is worth following.

2. Making Big Decisions (Genesis 13:5-13)

- The problem: Lot remained with Abram.
- The pressure: the land could not sustain their combined possessions.
- The insecurity: the Canaanite and Perizzite were also in the land.
- Abram made an unusual offer, allowing Lot to choose first.
- Lot chose by sight; Abram trusted God with the outcome.

Blessings are sometimes encapsulated in troubles.

Obedience and spiritual growth

God not only initiates our faith but maintains it. He wants faith to grow through obedience. Disobedience clouds our vision and complicates the journey; obedience clears the way for renewed fellowship and blessing.

*"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 1:6)*

3. Finding Awesome Rewards (Genesis 13:14-18)

- Timing is important: the LORD spoke again after Lot had separated from Abram.
- God told Abram to "lift up your eyes" and look in every direction.
- The promised land and descendants were reaffirmed.
- Abram walked through the land and built an altar to the LORD.
- Lot's eyes led him toward Sodom; Abram's eyes were directed by the LORD.

Summary

- Recover from mistakes by returning to God.
- Face major decisions with faith rather than fear or sight.
- Do not underestimate the negative impact of partial obedience.
- Enjoy the newness that comes when God completes an area of obedience.
- Expect God's purposes and rewards to become clearer in His time.

Discussion questions

1. What mistakes have I made? Do I recognize the Lord's patience toward me?
2. Is there a significant decision or act of obedience the Lord wants me to make? What is the first step, and when will I take it?
3. What hopes do I have for the Lord's work in my life? How important are they to me?