"Making Wise Decisions"

Genesis 13:1-18 & Selected Passages

Faith Baptist Church, Lebanon, PA - Teen Retreat - August, 2017

Introduction:

- Every decision is <u>important</u>.
- You are <u>responsible</u> for the decisions you make in life.
- Your decisions both <u>reveal</u> your character and <u>form</u> it.
- Your <u>present</u> circumstances are (in large part) a result of your <u>past</u> choices.
- The decisions you must make <u>today</u> may be a result of decisions you made in your <u>past</u> (Our choices can result in a vicious or victorious cycle)
- God is concerned about the <u>details</u> of your life. (He cares about the choices you make - Matthew 10:30)

I. Abram's GOOD CHOICE (v.8-9; 14-18)



A. Abram chose to stay <u>cool</u> & <u>calm</u> and did not make a hasty move (v.8)

B. Abram chose to <u>graciously</u> & <u>unselfishly</u> offer Lot the land he preferred (v.9)

C. Abram chose to <u>trust God</u> with the result of the decision

D. Abram's choice resulted in him receiving <u>God's very best</u> (v.14-18)

II. Lot's BAD CHOICE (v.10-13)



A. Lot chose based on what he <u>saw</u> with his <u>eyes</u> (v.10a)

B. Lot chose based on the prospect of <u>material advantage</u> (Monetary gain) (v.10b)

C. Lot chose out of <u>selfish motives</u>, seeking the best <u>for himself</u>. (v.11)

D. Lot's choice made him vulnerable to making <u>other bad choices</u>. (v.12-13)

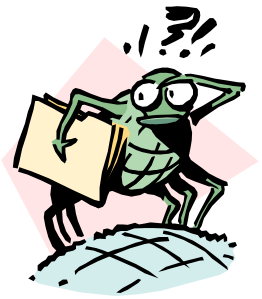
E. Lot's choice negatively affected not only himself, but his entire family (Compare: Genesis 19:14-17; 26; 35-38)

Some Warnings about Decision Making:

1) Beware of making <u>hasty</u> decisions (Quick decisions)
2) Beware of making <u>carnal</u> decisions (Decisions when you are not close to God)
3) Beware of making <u>self-serving</u> decisions (out of selfish motives)
4) Beware of making <u>unsure</u> decisions (If its doubtful, its dirty)
5) Beware of making <u>emotional</u> decisions (without reason)
6) Beware of making <u>faith-less</u> decisions (throwing out "the fleece")

How do I make wise decisions?

Ask yourself the following questions before making the choice:



1. **Have I <u>prayed to God</u> about this decision?**
   Proverbs 3:5,6 - Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

2. **Do I need <u>Godly counsel (advice)</u> about this decision?**
   Proverbs 12:15 - The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.
   Pr 1:5 A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:
   Pr 19:20 - Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

3. **Do I have a <u>solid Bible reason</u> to justify this decision?**
   Psalm 119:105 - Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

4. **Which of my choices should be my <u>priority</u>?**
   Mt 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

5. **Which of my choices would most <u>please & glorify</u> God?**
   Eph 5:10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.
   Make your decisions based upon what is <u>right</u>, not what is popular, or feels good.

6. **What would be the <u>long-term effects</u> of my choice?**
   Pr 14:12 - There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.
   Don't made decisions based merely upon <u>immediate</u> results.
   "Never sacrifice the eternal on the altar of the immediate" (Dr. Bob Jones Sr.)

7. **Do I have <u>peace</u> about my decision?**
   Phil. 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Concluding Remarks about God's will in your decisions:

- **God's will is not a "bitter medicine"**
  Psalm 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.
- **God never leads a person contrary to His Word**
  Psalm 119:35 - Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.
- **God only moves those who are in motion for Him; He does not steer parked cars**
  Acts 13:2 - As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.
- **God gives you the desire and ability to do whatever He wants you to do**
  Php 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

"Knowing God's will is life's greatest knowledge;
Doing God's will is life's greatest privilege" *Dr. Bob Jones Sr*

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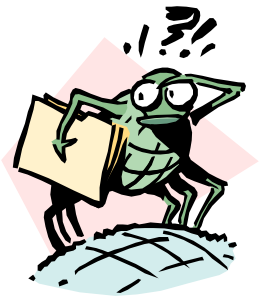

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