

The Story

Abram gets a fresh start after a hard lesson

- Cite vv. 1-4

The prosperity of Abram's family creates a problem

- Cite vv. 5-7

Abram decides to solve the problem in a way that protects the relationship

- Cite vv. 8-9
- Quote: "Did we pretend to be 'hurt' in our sensitive and tender feelings (fine natures like ours are so vulnerable) when envy, ungratified vanity, or thwarted self-will was our real problem? Such tactics often succeed. The other parties give in. They give in not because they don't know what is really wrong with us, but because they have long known it only too well, and that sleeping dog can be roused, that skeleton brought out of its cupboard, only at the cost of imperilling their whole relationship with us. It needs surgery which they know we will never face. And so we win; by cheating. But the unfairness is very deeply felt. Indeed what is commonly called 'sensitiveness' is the most powerful engine of domestic tyranny, sometimes a lifelong tyranny. How we should deal with it in others I am not sure; but we should be merciless to its first appearance in ourselves." - C.S. Lewis

Lot chooses land near Sodom

- Cite vv. 10-13
- Two significant notes:
 1. Lot's choice is ominous
 2. He chooses according to what his eyes can see
- Quote: "He was swayed solely by the consideration of worldly advantage." - Marcus Dods

Abram's humble leadership is blessed

- Cite vv. 14-18

Lessons and Applications:

1. Worship shapes everything

Quote: "How much my father's prayers at this time impressed me I can never explain, nor could any stranger understand. When, on his knees and all of us kneeling around him in Family Worship, he poured out his whole soul with tears for the

conversion of the Heathen world to the service of Jesus, and for every personal and domestic need, we all felt as if in the presence of the living Savior, and learned to know and love him as our Divine friend." - John G. Paton

2. Worship of the One True God frees us to settle our quarrels

Cite: Philippians 2:4-11

3. Worship of the One True God frees us to make decisions based on more than what we can see

The Bible talks about God's will in two ways:

1. God's will of decree (Ephesians 1:11)
2. God's will of desire

Quote: "What does God want me to do with my life? What job should I take? Where should I live? Those are the questions we ask when seek God's will of direction. We want to know his individual, specific plan for the who, what, where, when, and how of our lives. We want to know his direction...[this is] a secret will of direction that He expects us to figure out before we do anything."

Making Biblical Decisions:

1. What do you want to do? Know your own desires well.
2. Then ask: Do God's commands allow me to do what I want to do? Is there a command that speaks to this?
3. Can I make this decision in faith? Will it make me more holy? Will it help me follow Jesus? Will it make me more like Jesus? Will it honor Jesus?

Quote: ""We need to hear the conclusion of Ecclesiastes: 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.' If you are going to be anxious about one thing, be anxious to keep his commandments. If we must fear something - and we all do - fear God, not the future." - Kevin DeYoung