Genesis 13 - Family Conflict

GRACE CHURCH WORCESTER PARK

Introduction

1. How do you find dealing with family conflicts? What is it about families that make conflicts inevitable and avoidable at the same time?

2. "The Bible teaches that life for Christians is more about our responsibilities than our rights…" Do you agree? Why? Why not?

- *Just wanting to tease out how counter-cultural we're to be as Christians - in a world that is all about my rights - we follow a Saviour who surrendered his for our good*

v1-4

3. After his failure to trust God in Egypt, How does Abram respond? What does this tell us about him?

- *Retraces his steps and builds and altar to call on the name of the Lord - to worship and repent and recalibrate*

3.b. How is this a good picture of repentance?

v5-13

4. What problem arose between Abram and Lot? (13:5–7)

- *Too many sheep not enough water and grass!*

5. What solution did Abram propose? What does it tell about him? (13:8–9) What right could he have exercised as the older man in the family?

- *Abram takes the initiative*
- *Family links are clearly important to him*
- *He's willing to let Lot have first choice - even though that was his right. He's trusting the Lord to keep his promises*

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Read 2 Peter 2:7 to see how the NT regards Lot. It's important to have that in our minds as we consider his choices and actions.

6. What land did Lot choose? Why? What should he have done as the younger man in the family?(13:10–11)

- *The language has echoes of Eve in the garden looking at the fruit… He sees it's good land from a business point of view*

6.b. What does the narrator's note in v13 tell us about Sodom's reputation? What's the implication about Lot's decision?

- *He surely would have known that reputation - and the spiritual dynamic doesn't come into to decision making - which turns out to be a big problem*

v14-18

7. How does God reassure Abram about his promises? What does it reveal about the relationship between the Lord and His chosen people?

- *God restates the promise in tangible ways for him. He's not forgotten his plans and purposes and will bring them to pass*

Application:

8. Compare and contrast Abram in Egypt in Genesis 12 with his relationship to Lot in Genesis 13. What is the main difference in Abram's actions in the two incidents?

- *He trusts God and doesn't give in to fear or to trying to fix it in his own ways*

9. Characterize the basis of Lot's choice of land. How is that a temptation in our culture and in your life?

10. What lessons can be learned from the way Abram resolved his conflict with Lot?

- *He Lets go of his rights - takes initiative - trusts God*

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11. In what practical ways can we emulate Abram's willingness to let go of what he could have claimed for himself in our own relationships?

12. Read Philippians 2: 1-11 - How does Abram’s humility foreshadow the Lord Jesus’ ultimate example of humility?