

## Sermon Discussion - 4 June 2023

Read Genesis 13:5-18

### **Getting Started** *Sharing from personal experience*

When Abram left Egypt after being disgraced in his faithlessness, he traveled to Bethel (Genesis 13:3-4).

Places are significant to God. Sometimes there are places of remembrance for failures and other places of remembrance for victories. Do you have any special places in your life where God has done some great things, or places that serve as warnings of past failure?

### **Observation** *Discovering the context*

In Genesis 13, we find Abram and Lot in the hill country around Bethel. The problem was that there wasn't enough fertile land to support their huge flocks. As the older man of the family, Abram could have chosen the best land for himself. However, he gave the first choice to his nephew, Lot. Why could Abram afford to let Lot choose the best land (Genesis 13:2-3)?

- What attributes and promises of God did Abram root himself in?
- When your rights, your future, and your prosperity seem to hang in the balance, what do you normally do?
- What lessons should we learn from Abram's faith in this particular situation?

### **Interpretation** *Discovering the meaning*

1. In the story of Genesis 13, Abram and Lot separated from each other. Is that the right tact to take in order to maintain peace? How do (Acts 15:39; 1Cor. 7:10-16) inform the discussion? Can you think of any scripture passages that point us in to stick together and work at being peaceful?
2. How does the example of Jesus in (Romans 5:6-11; Phiippians. 2:4-8) challenge you in your endeavors to resolve conflict and find reconciliation with others?
3. In v. 7, it mentions that the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land. Notice the context in which that is mentioned. What do you think might be the significance of this information? Why does it matter that the Canaanites and Perizzites were there?

4. On what basis does Lot make his choice according to v. 10? What did he fail to consider in his decision making? Has that ever been an issue for you in your life? Have you made decisions enamored with things that don't matter and blind to things that do?
5. After Lot left Abram in v. 11, what physical acts did God give Abram to do. Why were these significant, and why were they good to do?

**Application** *Putting knowledge into practice*

- A major concern in Genesis 13 is the priority of peace between family members (both physical and spiritual). Think/pray for 30 seconds of a conflict you have with someone. Now ask yourself, "have I done everything possible to resolve it?" How can the principles of humility, grace and faith help you stop the quarrel?
- Try memorising Genesis 13:8.  
*Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen."*
- How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?