How Faith Helps You See January 20, 2019

*Genesis 13:1-18 Series: Walk into God’s Blessings*

Being lost is living by a set of values that systematically dismantles your life. - Anonymous

Intro: Accepting blindness.

1. Sight without faith leads you in darkness. (Lot)
2. Faithless decisions are based only on what we can see.

v. 10 *Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere*

1. Faithless decisions are all about ME not about God or others.

v. 11 *So Lot chose for himself …*

v. 11 *Thus they separated from each other.*

1. Faithless decisions ignore temptation and judgment.

v. 10 If it looks like the garden of Eden, don’t be surprised if there are serpents.

v. 10 Egypt should have reminded him of compromise.

v. 10 *before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah*

v. 12 *Lot … moved his tent as far as Sodom.*

v. 13 *… the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.*

* What are the decisions that you’re most likely to make based just on sight, rather than faith?
* How could Lot have approached this decision differently?
* What are some situations where temptation needs to be factored into a decision? What can you do in these situations?

1. Sight guided by faith leads you in light. (Abraham)
2. Faith decisions are rooted in unselfish love.

v. 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.*

Romans 12:18 *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*

Philippians 2:4 *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

1. Faith decisions rest in God’s provision.

v. 9 *Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left.*

1. Faith decisions lead to a secure inheritance.

v. 15 *for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever*

v. 16 *I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth*

v. 17 *Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.*

Proverbs 10:22 *The blessing of the LORD makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.*

* Is it even possible to make decisions rooted in unselfish love at work? How can you do that?
* Should you pray about business decisions? Why?
* Why was Abraham seemingly willing to give away the land that God had promised to him?
* In the short term, Lot seemed to live the good life and Abraham waited for a promise that never seemed to be fulfilled. In what sense then was Abraham’s inheritance greater? How does that relate to our inheritance as believers?

1. The faith to see comes through worshipping God our Vision.
2. Faith decisions didn’t just come naturally to Abraham.

Genesis 12:13 *Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you …*

1. Faith decisions are born in worship.

vv. 3-4 *he journeyed … to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the LORD*

Revelation 2:5 *Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.*

v. 18 *So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.*

1. We can receive an inheritance we don’t deserve, because Jesus didn’t grasp at an inheritance He did deserve.

*Matthew 4:8-10 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’”*

* When you’ve taken a step of compromise, what are some ways that you can ‘retrace your steps’ as Abraham did in vv. 3-4?
* What place does worship play in your daily life? What are some ways that you could ‘build an altar’ into your daily routine?
* In what sense is Jesus’ temptation in Matthew 4 similar to Lot’s in Genesis 13? How do their responses differ?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Genesis 14:1-24.

Notes