

## **Genesis 13: Lot's Decision**

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In Genesis 13 we see that the land that Lot and Abram are sojourning on is not enough for both of them, and they must separate. Abram gives Lot the choice of where to go, and Lot picked the best land, in the Jordan River valley. However, this is the location of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Later in Genesis 19:1-26 we see that Lot's decision to live there costs him greatly. He loses his possessions, his sons and son-in-laws (and perhaps some of his daughters), and his wife. This is an important lesson in the Law of Unintended Consequences

We all know that decisions have consequences. Sometimes there are clear intended consequences; consider the consequence of obedience to the Gospel (or disobedience to the Gospel). You know for certain what will happen. Sometimes too there are unforeseeable consequences. But in Lot's case, there was a consequence that he should have known, but that he did not desire. This was an unintended foreseeable consequence. Unintended consequences are things for which we did NOT prepare, but which we should have seen coming. Many suffer from this law needlessly; let us consider five decisions that this spiritual law affects

### 1. Our jobs - I Corinthians 7:20-23

Your choice in your vocation will have consequences you may not intend. Usually we look at the money we will make, but fail to appreciate that we may become enslaved to another. We may end up missing opportunities to worship with the assembly, or not able to help in the work of the church. Such consequences hurt us spiritually, and many fall away because of this.

### 2. Our spouses - I Corinthians 7:32-33

Your choice on spouse is another choice that has long term consequences. In our society, we marry for love. But too often we marry someone without consideration of whether they will enable us to godliness. We want to have a marriage partner such as Priscilla and Aquila, when we can work as a team. Sometimes the choice is based on worldly determinations, such as looks or prestige, and we end up with a marriage like Ahab and Jezebel.

### 3. Our homes - Luke 12:22-31

Lot made a terrible choice for a home. It was good agriculturally, and no doubt valuable monetarily. But it was devoid of spiritual support. We need to be careful in our choice of a home. Even a house itself can have unintended consequences, when it is too expensive or results in vanity or covetousness.

### 4. Our money habits - Luke 12:16-21

There is no sin in having things; we ought to have possessions to share and use them. But as Jesus warned in Luke 12, we can forget God when we get too much. We need to be careful in our pursuit and use of money. Many people are led astray by the love of money. We ought to consider the prayer of Agur in Proverbs 30:7-9 and the wisdom of not having too much or too little.

## 5. Our parenting - I Timothy 5:4-8

Having children is important. But too often people do not show their children what it means to honor God or others, and the consequence of this is that children fail to honor their parents.

Conclusion: Too often strong brethren make bad choices:

“I can be the church!”

“I could do good things with money!”

“I can save that person’s soul!”

“I could serve God and men!”

All of these statements might have come from Lot in his decision to move to the Jordan valley. But he should have seen that there is a consequence to living among immoral people. We need to think about the undesirable and unintended consequences of our decisions.