

Genesis 13:14-18

14 The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west.

15 All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.

16 I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted.

17 Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

18 So Abram moved his tents and went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the Lord.

ALMIGHTY INFINITE FATHER
FAITHFULLY LOVING YOUR OWN
ARE WE HIS OWN?
ARE YOU?

GENESIS 13: 14-18 BETHOU MY VISION V2

INTRODUCTION: Parenting, God's parenting

BACKGROUND: Summary of Gen 13:1-13---Back in Canaan, 'loaded',
strife and quarreling, A's proposal, A's appeal: "We are
brothers---consequently, this is not a "Baptist" term, Lot's
choice and basis

What has happened?
What would be good parenting here?
Watch our 'Father'. This passage literally begins, "Now
Yahweh..." READ Verses 14-15. OF GENESIS 13

READ

What is our Father doing here? What would you say? LET'S STUDY
Why "Lift up your eyes?" Isn't this interesting? How did Lot make
his decision? READ Verse 10a, "Lot looked up and saw..."; then
Verse 11, "So Lot chose for himself."

READ

Lot 'looked and saw'. ^{NOW} God says "Lift up your eyes and see." Isn't
that interesting? You see there is nothing wrong with 'looking
and seeing'. The difference is Lot looked and choose for himself,
whereas Abram looked for the Lord.

Both saw. Lot saw with his eyes; Abram saw with his eyes, but
Abram also saw, more significantly, with God's eyes. Furthermore,
Lot did not get to 'see' what A did, nor did he get to hear these
incredible things God has to say.

PICTURE -
AB ROTATING

Did you see? God says to Abram that He will give all the land in
every direction, N, S, E, W, to Abram and to his offspring. Think
on this, does this promise, land in every direction, include the
land Lot has chosen?

Absolutely; so Abram's gift of land to Lot is genuine, but
according to God, that land will forever be held for Abram's
descendants. Abram offered Lot half, then God comes and confirms
the whole to Abram. What a great way to try to give something
away! CAN YOU SEE THIS? LIKE CHILD PLAYING - GIVES UP

Then did you see how long A's offspring will have it? FOREVER!!!
This is a very long time. How remarkable would it be to hear such
a promise from our heavenly Father!

Why does the Lord say this to Abram right now? Can you see? What
would you say? In essence, "if you choose to trust Me this much,
let Me show you how much you will see Me and be blessed."
I HEAR ME KNOW M

Sometimes we forget what exactly is going on here. Notice right
after Lot departs, God "SPEAKS" to Abram. Not only does the Lord
make these overwhelming promises and blessings, but also He
chooses to be the One who delivers the message. How awesome is
this? MUCH MORE THAN JUST GOOD POSITIVE REINF -> FAITH!
WHAT PARENTING!

If we trust, if we listen... ..
Is this true?

24 YEARS AGO

One of the more memorable times in my life occurred in 1978. I was living, here in Ft. Worth, in Letty and my 'dream house'; I was the District Manager for one of American General's companies, and I was making more money than I ever thought I could make. We were happy, prosperous, blessed, and without a care.

Then God worked in me in a remarkable way and moved me to kind of start life all over and pursue a ministry in counseling. I was surprised to find out that I had enough faith to give up so much and go back to school to pursue an entirely new career.

I will never forget our house. It was on Mary's Creek; it was a large beautiful 4 bed/ 3 bath home, with large trees and tiff grass---golf course grass that we had put in. I remember when we bought it; we could not believe that we were so wealthy as to be able to spend \$435/month on a house payment.

1978

We had built a large wooden playground swingset in the back yard for Windy. I was able to trust the Lord to give up my wonderful job, move to Atlanta where we knew noone, get in graduate school, get a full time job, go to school full time---YET I just did not want to give up our home.

We had made such a good deal on our home, it was perfect for us--location, size, floor plan, landscape, and especially price. Furthermore, our ultimate plan and hope was to get training in counseling and come back to our home church. So we would need a place in Ft. Worth to live when we finished our training.

But the big problem was that we needed to use some of our equity to pay for my schooling and also we needed money for a home in Atlanta for the years we would be there. I tried to figure out how to hold on to that which was so important to me and also still come up with a way to make happen with what I was sure God wanted me to do. Does this make any sense?

Well, after coming to the end of my wits, which actually did not take that long, I realized that we needed to sell our house; I needed to let go of my very precious material possession. So in a kind of faith showdown, I was able to tell the Lord that I was willing to trust Him with this.

I really came to a point of realizing that He was the reason why we had been able to find and purchase such a remarkable home. He gave it to us. And although I could not imagine ever having such a nice home again and at such a price, still I needed to trust in the Lord and not in what I possessed.

I COULD SEE

Fortunately, I really wanted to trust in Him. So it was not painfully hard; actually it was exciting to me to see the depth of my faith in the Lord; it kind of surprised me. So I told the

Lord that I felt I could now trust Him with the change and the move and finally even our 'home.'

Well, I called some friends to help me with the sale and the best way to handle the finances and the taxes and all. After explaining the whole thing and why we needed to sell the house, they showed me many things which I was not aware of. I can't even remember what all was decided, but they were certain that it made no sense to sell our house.

Before I did anything else I went to the Lord and shared it all with Him. His response astounded me. He told me that the wise counsel that I was receiving was sound and what He wanted me to do. When I asked why then all the stuff I had gone through in letting the house go, He revealed to me exactly what we are studying today.

He taught me that if I would be willing to trust Him with everything: my life, my family, all my possessions, my job---that if I would let Him have it all, that what He has for me is better than what I presently have. wow!

In essence, I cannot outgive Him. So if I would give Him our home to finance what He called me to do, He would give me even more. In this specific case, He gave me our home back. We were able to set it up with a wonderful management agency and with a godly Christian woman who became a personal friend.

With the money we received in rental we were able to do all that we needed in Atlanta. When we did move back we were able to move back into our home and found it in wonderful shape. Then years later when we did sell it to move to Virginia we sold it for well over twice what we had paid for it. wow!

This was a major event in my life 24 years ago. My heavenly Father taught me who He is and that I can count on Him for everything in my life. ^{now} I have great confidence in Him.

Now He has also taught me that this is all about trusting Him. It is not a way to get rich---in other words if I thought that if I give Him so much \$ that then He has to give me more back---well if I tried to use Him as kind of a lottery ticket that we had no deal. IT'S ABOUT TRUSTING HIM.

But when He leads me to trust Him, to move out, to give up myself or something important to me or a large sum of my \$---if He is leading me to trust Him this deeply, then I can trust Him to show me what kind of Father He is. Same as with our children.

When Windy was little, and she gave up... .. then as her proud parent, what would you think I would do? You got it. Exactly the same as our Heavenly Father. He loves us so much; He wants to reinforce in us trust; and He loves giving to us.

LIKE HE TAUGHT
HARAM

WHAT DID IT TAKE?

SIMPLY GIVING UP WHAT HE HAD GIVEN ME.

HE IS LOVING GIVING SO MUCH HEAR TO ABRAM
LOOK AT V 16. READ

READ

In verse 16 the Lord chooses to use a word picture to help Abram understand how extensive is His promise, READ Verse 16. What a great word picture! How many have tried to count dust--- interesting project, isn't it?

Well God says it will be just as easy to count your offspring as it would be to count dust. And remember this is before A has any children and he and Sarai are around 90. Talk about the need for faith; no wonder God is nurturing and developing Abram's faith here.

READ

The last thing that the Lord says to Abram here is in verse 17, let's READ. What strikes you about what God says here? What is the purpose of God's instruction here? Do you see?

It is the word "WALK." The Lord has already told Abram that all the land that he can see in any and every direction is his, but now the Lord says 'walk' through it. I believe what the Lord is doing here is enabling Abram to "Experience", in a sense, to 'taste' this promise.

Imagine what this would be like. "Walk in any direction for as far as you want; every place your foot falls is and will always be for your descendants." Kind of like winning a contest at the mall where you can keep whatever you fill a shopping cart with.

God wants Abram to 'experience' the ABUNDANCE of what He has for him. Like opening a present, God is saying this all is yours. "I am so pleased with you. Way to trust me. Giving Lot whatever he wanted shows that you are getting it. I am the Lord God Almighty and no one nor anything can take away or in any way detract from the blessings I have promised. Way to go Ab!!!"

READ

So Abram takes God up on His promise. So Abram moves his tents to a beautiful place at Hebron, and does what? Look, READ Verse 18. Abram chooses the Oaks of Mamre. This is a very special place to Abram, about 22 miles south of Jerusalem. This is where Abram will entertain the Angel of the Lord; this is where he will bury his wife, Sarah. This is where Abram chose to receive the Lord in a special way.

And this is where he builds an altar to the Lord. What do altars represent? An altar is a place where offerings and/or sacrifices are made to a deity. In these 2 chapters of Genesis Abram builds 3 altars to the Lord. In each instance, Abram worships the Lord and gives offerings of praise. AND HIMSELF

THIS BUILDING OF

SO MUCH LEFT OUT

It seems appropriate to ask why ~~these~~ altars are reported, [^] why do we need to know this? Think on this. How many of us have ever made ~~something like an altar upon which we would worship anything or anyone? Anyone here? We just don't do these things, and other than God Himself there is nothing nor noone for us to worship.~~

Do you see?

IN THIS LAND FOREIGN TO AB; HE NEEDED A PLACE TO GO AND MEET WITH GOD

These altars are places and times when Abram needed to tangibly acknowledge the Lord, to acknowledge His greatness and His supremacy. These were specific times when Abram needed to tangibly offer himself to the Lord; to acknowledge his trust and his dependence. And we must do the same. ONE OF THE REASONS WE COME TO CHURCH - WE NEED A PLACE TO MEET WITH GOD. SO TO SPEAK
One other observation. As Abram has 'moved' on with God, along with the progression of these altars has come increased revelation from the Lord and of the Lord.

Remember God first told A, "Go to the land I will show you." Then second, "This is the land I will give to your descendants." Now, "All this land is yours and furthermore, Ab, your descendants who will inhabit this land, well... They will be as many as the particles of dust, should you choose to count them."

Do you see? As we truly trust the Lord; give Him ourselves; give Him things important to us, He will progressively show us, more and more, HIMSELF and He will show us, more and more, what He has for us, and He will show us, more and more, blessings from His Hand.

DO YOU WANT MORE OF OUR LORD?

Is this true? Do you believe? Then come to Him and tell Him. Worship Him.