

“Severance Pain” Abraham (Part 3)

*“Sever yourselves from such a man, whose breath is in his nostrils;
for of what account is he?” (Isaiah 2:22 NKJV)*

The Crisis

Genesis 13:1-7 – (1) “So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb. (2) Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. (3) And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, (4) to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the LORD. (5) And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, (6) so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, (7) and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram’s livestock and the herdsmen of Lot’s livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land.”

The Choice

Genesis 13:8-13 – (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. (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.’ (10) And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) (11) So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. (12) Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. (13) Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.”

The Consequence

Genesis 13:14-18 – (14) “The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, ‘Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, (15) for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. (16) I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. (17) Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will

give it to you.’ (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.”

Exposing & Deposing my “Lot Leanings”:

(1) Choose the Spiritual over the Natural

“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first. (Matthew 19:29-30)

(2) Confidence Conversion

“Though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.” (Philippians 3:4-8)

(3) Cultivate the Skill of Discerning the Difference

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart...But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.” (Hebrews 4:12, 5:14)

Questions to Ponder:

- (1) What are some of the natural things that I lean on?**
- (2) How often to I stop to discern between the natural and spiritual, or between the “good” and God? (Prov. 16:25, 28:26)**

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)