

A HIGH PRICE FOR GOOD LAND

Gen. 13:5-13

Introduction:

- A. Lot and Abraham come to a "crossroads" in their relationship.
 - 1. Too rich to live together (vs. 5,6)
 - 2. Too close to strive. (vs. 7,8)
- B. Lot and Abraham looking over land.
 - 1. Fertile Jordan Valley.
 - 2. Less fertile hill country.
- C. Lot is given a choice (vs. 9)
 - 1. He made the natural, but selfish choice.
 - 2. He made the expensive choice in long run - made several trade-offs:

Discussion:

- I. **The Proper Respect For Uncle Abraham.**
 - A. He should have respected his age.
 - 1. Old Testament law. (Lev. 19:32)
 - 2. New Testament teaching. (1 Tim. 5:1)
 - 3. Oriental pagan customs (Japan)
 - 4. Elders, not younger, oversee church.
 - B. He should have respected his generosity. (cf. Gen. 11:27,28; 12:5)
 - 1. Ungrateful lepers.
 - 2. Ungrateful children.
 - 3. Ungrateful Christians
 - a. Toward God.
 - b. Toward brethren. (2 Cor. 12:15)
- II. **The Power To Influence Others For Good** (cf. Gen. 19:7,9,14)
 - A. He had choose neighbors too wicked to be influenced.
 - 1. Possible to run with such a crowd with no place to start to influence.
 - 2. Possible to be ruined by such a crowd.
 - a. Morally (2 Cor. 6:14)
 - b. Doctrinally. (1 Cor. 15:33)
 - B. He had choosen to put self and family under wicked influence. (cf. Gen. 13:12,13) - with predictable results.
 - 1. Often done by unconcerned - ignorant or indifferent.
 - 2. Often done by irresponsible - Prefer not to shoulder responsibility.
 - 3. Often done by naive - not aware of the influence.
- III. **The Personal Happiness, Security and Dignity of Himself.**
 - A. His happiness impaired in Sodom. (2 Pet. 2:8)
 - B. His security went up in smoke - well watered plains could not save.
 - C. His dignity sacrificed in mountain (Gen. 19:30-38) - Influence of Sodom still on daughters.

Conclusion:

- A. How much did Lot pay for "well watered" land of Jordan?
- B. How much do we pay for material and temporal advantage?
- C. How much do we pay for rejecting the gospel for a life of sin?