

A JUST MAN MADE A TERRIBLE DECISION

(Genesis 13:10-12)

I. The reasoning.

- a. We first read of Lot in Genesis 12:15.
- b. Being with Abraham, who was still Abram, at this time, had great benefits.
 - i. Genesis 13:2-5.
 - ii. Lot was blessed by God while with Abram.
- c. Because they had so much together, there was the growing problem of the land not being able to support the flocks of both men.
 - i. Abram did not want there to be trouble between the two of them so they got together and decided to separate (Genesis 13:6-9).
 - ii. This separation was going to take place in order to avoid conflict.
- d. Look at how Lot made his decision (Genesis 13:10-12).
 - i. This may have been the man in him, making a decision based off of appearances.
 - ii. First appearances are often misleading.
 - iii. Notice that nowhere in his thinking was a consideration of what God's will on the matter may have been.
 - iv. When we are making decisions, God's will being sought on the matter is the most important thing (James 4:13-16).
- e. At the beginning of the 2017-18 school year, David Shannon was named president of FHU.
 - i. David was the long-time preacher at Mt. Juliet near Nashville, and is a FH grad.
 - ii. He's a great gospel preacher and seems to be a very godly man.
 - iii. I read an interview done with him about his decision to accept the position.
 - iv. He said that he and his wife prayed a lot about the job but never prayed for the job.
 - v. He prayed that the right man be found and that God's will be done in the situation.
- f. I believe David used great reasoning.
- g. Sadly, we see Christians figuratively pitch their tents towards Sodom today.
 - i. Some do so by taking a job or moving somewhere simply based on the amount of money they can make.
 - ii. Some do so by allowing their children to participate in events that are detrimental to the spiritual well-being of their children.
 - iii. Some do so by allowing society to influence their decisions on entertainment or dress.
 - iv. Some do so by being too at ease around those of the opposite sex.

- h. It is imperative that we use sound, biblical reasoning along with extreme amounts of prayer when making decisions today.

II. The reaping.

- a. We know that the law of gravity says that what goes up must come down.
 - i. We haven't found a way to beat this law.
 - ii. It is unalterable.
- b. God's law of sowing and reaping is unalterable as well (Galatians 6:7-8).
 - i. There has never been a person who has been able to get around this law.
 - ii. All choices we make come due at some point.
- c. There came a day in the life of Lot that he woke up with a headache in a cave.
 - i. He awoke to his two daughters being with child and himself as the father.
 - ii. He awoke to his wife being a pillar of salt in a nearby valley.
 - iii. He awoke to all his earthly possessions and the rest of his children burnt to a crisp and in ashes from fire and brimstone raining down on them.
- d. Lot had suffered through war (Genesis 14:11).
- e. Lot had suffered through being carried away captive (Genesis 14:12).
- f. Lot had suffered from the citizens of Sodom (2 Peter 2:7-8; Genesis 19:1-11).
- g. Why did all of this happen: because he had pitched his tent toward Sodom years before.
 - i. The place looked so good.
 - ii. The valley was so well-watered.
 - iii. He knew he could really allow his flocks to increase and his money to grow if he could live in that area.
 - iv. It may be that Lot was unaware of the reputation of Sodom.
 - v. Or, it may be that he felt he was righteous enough to stay out of the proverbial mud.
 - vi. No matter, because all of these things happened to him despite him being a righteous man.
- h. Lot, and all of us, reap what we have sown.
- i. How many of us here today have never expressed regret over decisions we have made in the past?
 - i. Probably very few of us.
 - ii. More than likely, most of us have done regrettable things in the past and wish now we could have them back.
- j. None of us can get around the law of sowing and reaping.

III. Our realizations.

- a. The first thing we must realize is that we can't change the past.
 - i. We must leave our mistakes in the past and move forward (Philippians 3:13-14).
 - ii. All we can do is repent and do better in the future.
 - iii. We have to trust in the forgiveness of God.

- b.** We must also realize that godliness is to be valued above all else.
 - i.** You and I are to live godly in this present world (Titus 2:12).
 - ii.** Proverbs 15:16; 16:8.
- c.** We must realize that our family is affected by our decisions.
 - i.** Parents are to bring up children in the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).
 - ii.** Putting the pursuit of money, academics, prestige, athletic success, or anything else kills our family.
 - iii.** Our children will grow up making decisions based on what they saw in our home.
 - iv.** Seeking God's will above all else is what will give our children the proper foundation on which to build their lives.
- d.** We must realize the need to focus on God daily.