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).

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.