

CHARIS CHRISTIAN CENTRE

SERMON NOTES

DATE : 16 NOVEMBER, 2008
SPEAKER : REV. LAWRENCE YAP
TOPIC : **YOUR DECISION DETERMINES YOUR DESTINY**
TEXT : GENESIS 13: 1-18

“It is by life’s choices and not by life’s chances that happiness comes to an individual.” It is important for us to understand this statement. We have to understand that when God created us, He made us a **free moral agent: to have the prerogative of making choices. This freedom of choice comes with responsibilities to bear the consequences of choices made. But know that we have a God who is gracious & merciful; the God of 2nd chance.**

Abram & Lot

- Abram (Abraham) was the uncle of Lot. When Abram & family went from Egypt to Negev, he took Lot along too. God blessed Abram & he became wealthy in livestock, silver & gold. Because of the overflowing of livestock, there was some quarrelling between the herdsmen of Abram & Lot. Abram decided that they should part company.
- Abram was magnanimous even though he was an uncle and elder of the clan. He allowed Lot to have the first choice of the land. Lot didn’t have ethical integrity, & instead he interpreted Abram’s meekness as weakness. Lot chose the plains of Jordan & went to live in the cities of the plain, near Sodom (v.12). In Gen. 19, we read of the consequences of Lot’s choice.

From today’s text, we learn **the ways we make our choices & the consequences of the choices made.**

1. We make choices by our own evaluation.

- From today’s text, we learned that **Lot’s choice was made by sight.** (Gen. 13:10). Later, in Gen. 19, we also read of the consequences of his choice.
- Many of us made our choices through our own evaluations & experiences. Very often, we do not realize that what we see may not be what we get. As such, we need to maintain a humble attitude &

acknowledge that **all our own evaluations have limitations and flaws.**

2. We make choices by influences.

- **Lot’s choice was influenced & enticed by what he saw & the lifestyle of the cities of Sodom**
- The influence of outside factors & others can be very strong elements on how we make our choices
- “Statistics proved that most children conform to their parents, but 9 out of 10 teens may likely conform to their peers.” (John Maxwell)
- What influenced your decision/ choice today?

3. We make choices by the Lord’s Guidance.

- **This point has been fully elaborated in the sermon entitled “The Dynamics of Hearing God.” Part 1-3 (14.9.08 & 21.9.08)**

4. We make choices by values that we have embraced.

- **What does this mean? It means that the convictions & standard of your value system. As Christians, our value system must be based & guided by the principles set by God in the Bible.**
- Moses is a good example (Heb. 11:24-25) in contrast to the cities of Sodom – **“But the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning before the Lord.”**
- **It is a flop philosophy if you think that you can control your destiny! Lot represented those who believe & think that external advantages are the chief aims of lives. When humanistic values are considered to be the highest priority in a choice, then the soul is easily corruptible.”**
- **It is said that if you run with wolves, you will learn to howl like one. But if you associate with eagles, you will learn how to soar to great heights.”**
- John Maxwell said, “You will acquire the vices and virtues of your closest associates. The fragrance of their lives will pervade your life.”
- **It is easy for a person to be saved but it is another thing for a person to be regenerated. We can only be regenerated by the Holy Spirit when we allow the Holy Spirit to overhaul our value system & our belief system. This is the fundamental & important gist of being a true believer of Christ. Anything less than this, we are still a carnal believer. (1 John 2:15-17)**

- This is one of the reasons why we need to go to church regularly so that we can be constantly reminded of God's principles through the preaching of His Word in church.

Today's text also clearly outlined the **2 kinds of people**,

1. **Abram** was the kind of man who, if his business interfered with his religion, he will give up his business.
2. **Lot** was the kind of man, who if his business interfered with religion, he will give up his religion.

Which kind do you belong to today?? Do you **love the WORD** or do you love the **WORLD**?

Conclusion:

- Being a Christian is living by God's way & not living it in your own way
- Opportunity comes from God even though the circumstances may not seem good.(Gen. 13:14-17)
- Mark 13:31 = "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will never pass away." Alleluia!!