

Conflict Through Eyes of Faith Pt. 2

Genesis 13:10-18 Sunday AM, August 24, 2025

Prelude – Scripture: Genesis 13:1-18 (NASB95) So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, he and his wife and all that belonged to him, and Lot with him. 2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold. 3 He went on his journeys from the Negev as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, 4 to the place of the altar which he had made there formerly; and there Abram called on the name of the LORD. 5 Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. 6 And the land could not sustain them while dwelling together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to remain together. 7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. Now the Canaanite and the Perizzite were dwelling then in the land. 8 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers. 9 "Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me; if to the left, then I will go to the right; or if to the right, then I will go to the left." 10 Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere—this was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah—like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar. 11 So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other. 12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom. 13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD. 14 The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward: 15 for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever. 16 "I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered. 17 "Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you." 18 Then Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

Abram returns from Egypt preserved through the famine with his wife, his life, and gifts from the Egyptians. What more could he ask? And yet there was more to the Egyptian escapade. So much more that we have plenty to question even while we empathize with his fears and marvel at his plans. So Abram returns, and to where does he return? He retraces his steps back to the place where his tent had been at the beginning between Bethel and Ai, to the place of the altar which he had made there formerly; and there Abram called on the name of the LORD. And why shouldn't he publicly worship God in the land of the pagan Canaanites? It was God who had been the real player in Egypt, not Abram's great plans or Abimelech's whims or mercy. No, had it not been for the Lord, Abram might not have gotten back his wife nor left Egypt as he did. He returns and worships Yahweh's hesed—the faithful love of the One who called him. If you have had your eyes opened to see God, then you too have seen His lovingkindness. Church worship the lovingkindness of God.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Lovingkindness

It's one thing to remember your place under God and worship, it's another thing to remember it during conflict. Abraham responds much differently than he had to the conflict which led to Egypt. He responds to conflict with the eyes of faith in God. We saw his magnanimous care for Lot as he allows him to choose from the choicest of what was promised Abraham. His forethought and his love for peace with those closest to him was exemplary. But if we would follow Abraham's example, we must look past his actions to the One who motivated and enabled these actions. Sing more of God's faithful love.

*Hymn #67: The Love of God

***Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn D. Scripture: Hebrews 6:9–20** (NASB95) But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way.

10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. 13 For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU." 15 And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. 16 For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute. 17 In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, 20 where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Offering: *Doxology:

Our passage ends today with Yahweh repeating and elaborating on what had been promised Abraham—land and descendants. How much land? All you can see, and all walk through. How many descendants? If you can count the dust of the earth, you will know how many. What an exceeding abundance from God that goes beyond what we could ask or think. Church praise the power and goodness of the One who makes this kind of promise and fulfills it.

*Hymn #6: Sing Praise to God who Reigns Above

You may be seated. Amazing promises, but what about Lot? I wonder what portion he thought he would have in God's promises? He seemed blinded by his present good fortune as he left Abraham, focused on doing the work required to do what was best for him and his family. It is here we must consider Hebrews 6 which begins with a warning so sobering that many think you can lose your salvation, some never to regain it. However, the part Tim read follows that warning with encouragement to note the danger, shudder, and press on. But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way. And what motivates us to look past the warning and continue? The reward from God Himself. 10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, And how will you not give up under pressure, but faithfully continue? By being imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Part of God's means for our persevering includes looking to those like Abraham and seeing what made him persevere. Study it, learn from it, and follow the same path. We have seen and will continue to see that Abraham trusts the absolute certainty of God's word allowing him to patiently wait for fulfillment of God's promises. God cannot lie, not only about the reality of final judgment for those apart from Him, but also about all He has promised for those who love Him. Remember what He has given us in Jesus as pinnacle of His goodness to us and take hold of the hope set before us. It's an anchor for your soul.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): The Goodness of Jesus

Message: Conflict Through the Eyes of Faith Pt. 2 Gen. 13:10-18

This last hymn is either your testimony or it isn't. I pray that the living example of faith we saw in Abraham, the warning lights flashing around Lot living for his immediate needs and desires, and the kindness of God to lift Abraham's eyes to promises with eternal reward not only for himself, but for his descendants—I pray these will lead you toward worshipping God by pursuing these words as your testimony and repenting of anything keeping these words from being true in your life.

*Hymn #531: Satisfied

*Prayer