

THE LIFE OF ABARAHAM

3. Abraham's Priorities

(Leader's Notes)



Introduction

All of us, consciously or unconsciously, have priorities in our lives. Often these priorities, or the things we put first in our lives, affect the way we think or act. They are what determine the direction of our lives. What was the most important thing in Abraham's life? Let's compare this with Lot, who was Abraham's nephew.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 13:1-17

A. ABRAHAM'S PRIORITIES

- ✧ What were Abraham's priorities do you think, from the verses we have just read? V3-4, 8-9
(His first priority was God. In v4 we are told that he sought the Lord. The actions that show us this:
 - i. *The journey itself was an act of faith and obedience to God.*
 - ii. *The place where he chose to camp was where the Lord had appeared to him before.*
 - iii. *He built an altar to the Lord, showing his devotion.**Secondly, he valued others and he valued social harmony. We also see his humility in v9. Among his priorities material possessions came last. Not only that, he was generous.)*



Although Abraham did not place material possessions as his number one priority he was generous towards Lot? What can we learn from his example?

B. LOT'S PRIORITIES

- ✧ How do you think Lot should have responded to his uncle in this situation?
(Since Abraham was his uncle and his senior he should have given first choice of the land to him.)
- ✧ What influenced Lot's decision and what does this show us about his priorities in life? V10
(He saw the plain of the Jordan was well watered and that this was the most fertile part of the land. If he took this he knew he would prosper. This shows that his priority was material wealth.)
- ✧ How did Lot's choice affect his lifestyle? V12-13
(Lot moved right into the wicked city of Sodom. He had left his own country along with Abraham, and moved to the land that God had shown them, but now he moves to another wicked city, worse than the one he had left.)



What are the characteristics of a person whose priority is material possessions? Examine your own life. Are any of those characteristics in you?

C. ABRAHAM REASSURED

- ✧ How did God respond to Abraham's choice? V14-17
(God reassured him that what he had promised him would still come to pass. God is faithful to his promises, whatever others may do.)

- ✧ Why do you think this really encouraged Abraham?
(Perhaps Abraham wondered if we would be cheated out of what God had promised him, and whether giving Lot a choice had been wise. We do not know, but God reassured him. God shows that when we put him first we will lack nothing.)

Conclusion

It is easy to say we put God first in our lives, but do we really? How do we make our decisions? Are we more like Lot than Abraham? Sadly many Christians are, wanting the best for themselves. There are some important lessons we can learn from this story, and one of these is that if we put God first and trust him, he will bless us.