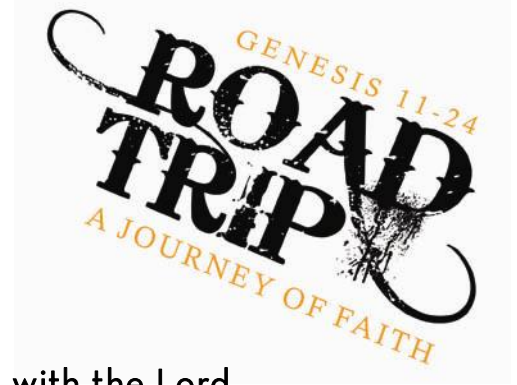


Conflicts on Our Journey of Faith

Genesis 13



- I. You are best prepared for conflict from _____ with the Lord.
Genesis 13:1-4

"...the place of the altar which he had made there formerly; and there Abram called on the name of the Lord."

- II. Conflict will occur in our journey even when _____ to the Lord.
Genesis 13:5-11; II Corinthians 6:3-10

And there were two kinds of strife...

- **External, in my Relationships:** People I trust, love family and friends
Please let there be no strife between you and me... vs. 8
- **Internal, in my Heart:** Selfish pursuits to satisfy my needs
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...vs. 10

Genesis 3:6; 13:12; 14:12; 19:1; Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95:8-11
Are these areas of conflict in your life?

- III. Conflict is best addressed from a _____ of generous grace.
Genesis 13:8-18

- **Abram initiated a gracious solution**
So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, or between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers. vs. 8

I John 4:7-11

How will you offer grace?

- **Abram selflessly gave up his own rights**
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." V 9

Philippians 2:5-9

What are you willing to give up to find peace of heart?

- **Abram trusted in the promises of God**
The Lord said to Abram, "Now lift up your eyes and look ...for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever".... he built an altar to the Lord. vs. 14, 15, 18; Colossians 3:1-10

Will you trust in God's sovereign rule and provision?

IV. Conflict resolved in selfless grace is a _____ to a fallen world.
Genesis 13:7

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.

Will you express a selfless heart of grace? In what way? Who is watching you?

Digging Deeper

Most of us already know that no matter how obedient and intimate our relationship with the Lord has become, we will still face conflict. As we learn from Genesis 13, we will have conflict with those we are closest to such as our families, business partners, classmates, neighbors, and church members. It is amazing to me how seemingly insignificant issues can generate so much conflict.

But we also are susceptible to another kind of conflict. This is an internal conflict of dissatisfaction, a malcontented attitude, selfish sinful pursuits, materialistic motivation, and a basic proud heart. We see this in Lot's life in this story. He actually had both conflicts as he battled with Abram and pursued a selfish journey by grabbing what seemed to be the best land. But, as his eyes were lifted up to this apparently better land, he, in fact, was moving away from the Lord and into one of the most sinful areas of that land: Sodom and Gomorrah, which is pointed out in the text.

It is amazing in how attractive sin may look to us. As you read about Lot lifting his eyes to view this land, reflect on the other time that someone's "eyes" were "lifted up" in **Genesis 3:1-7**. What did Eve see and how was her heart in conflict with the commands of God?

What are you "eyeing" that is creating a sinful conflict with God's holiness, love, grace, forgiveness, integrity or service?

Because Abram selflessly gave up his rights to the land, land which God promised to him in **Genesis 12**, God honored him in **Genesis 13:14-18**. Note all the "I" words of God and His promises to Abram. Abram was able to trust the Lord which is reflected in his "altar" time in vs. 18. He kept his "eyes" on the Lord even as he denied himself. Abram's self denial is like Jesus' in **Philippians 2:5-11**. What do you learn from this to help you in your own life?

Read **Colossians 3:1-10**. What does this passage tell you to focus your eyes and heart on to avoid a conflict of the heart? What are you to turn from to avoid conflict? What is the "new self" you are to put on? How should that make you different from the values and behaviors of this world, a world that lives in constant conflict with God and His Word? How do you keep "renewing" this new self in vs. 10? Do you have an "altar" time with the Lord to keep your heart "renewed?"

Read **Exodus 17:1-7**. What caused the conflict in the Israelites? What does it reveal about the Israelites' hearts in vs. 7? Are you in conflict with the Lord by not trusting Him when things do not go well? How?

Read **Psalms 95:8-11**. How did God respond to the Israelites' conflict and lack of faith? In what ways does this motivate you to trust in the Lord even when times are tough? Remember how Abram was rewarded for his faith? God loves to honor those who trust in Him.

