

(Genesis) Genesis 13:5-13

by J. Vernon McGee

Abram and Lot's separation due to strife caused by riches and Hagar serves as a reminder for the church to show love one for another and separate for peace.

Duration: 6:45

Scripture: Genesis 12:5, Genesis 13:2, Genesis 13:7-8, Genesis 13:10, Genesis 13:12-13, John 13:35

Topics: "Genesis"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher talks about the importance of love and unity among believers. He shares a personal story about his uncle who never came to the Lord because of the fighting and rivalry between his aunts who attended different churches. The preacher emphasizes that internal conflicts within the church can have a negative impact on those outside the faith. He then references the story of Lot and Abram, highlighting how their strife and separation allowed the Canaanites and Parasites to witness their discord and lose respect for them as followers of God.

Transcript

And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. And Lot did pretty well also, you see, down in the land of Egypt. And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together, for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

And there was strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle. And the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwell in the land. May I say, the word of God is a marvelous word, if you just only let it speak to you.

And will you notice this? Abram actually got two things in the land of Egypt that caused him untold grief. One was riches. The second was a little Egyptian maid by the name of Hagar.

We'll see that later. But here he got riches, and it causes him and Lot now to have to separate. There's strife between them.

And then did you notice this statement, the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwell in the land? The very interesting thing is, Abram's herdmen and Lot's herdmen are fighting, and here come Abram and Lot, and they disagree. And then the Canaanite whispers over to the Perizzite and says, look at them, fighting again. They came into this land, built an altar to the living and true God, and my, how we looked up to

Abram, and we thought when he first came here, he was such a wonderful man.

And we knew he was honest, we knew he was truthful. But look at him now. Look at the strife they're having.

And I don't think the Perizzite and the Canaanite were very well impressed by Abram and Lot at this time. Let me say this to you, it may step on somebody's toes. I don't know your town, I don't know where you live, but in your town, if you're like other towns in the town I came from, the Methodists and the Baptists and the Presbyterians, they just didn't get along.

And they were fighting. And sometimes in the church today, there is these internal fights. And the unsaved man on the outside, he knows about it.

May I say to you, he says, if that's Christianity, I don't want any of it. I can get a fight outside. I don't need to join the church to get a fight.

The Lord Jesus says to the church today, by this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you are fundamental and you organize a church. Oh no, he said, by this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you have love one for another. The Perizzite and the Canaanite, those old rascals, they know when you're fighting on the inside, friends.

That's the reason I had an uncle that never came to the Lord. My aunt used to weep and say, oh, he won't listen. Well, you know why? Well, with her lived a sister, another aunt.

I used to go there sometimes Sunday for dinner. You know what we had for dinner? Roast preacher. One of my aunts went to the Methodist church, the other went to the Presbyterian church, and oh boy, did they try to outdo each other, talking about the preacher and the fights that were going on.

I used to watch my uncle, he'd just sit there and eat. When he'd get up, he'd leave, go down to his club. On Sunday afternoon, he'd come home that evening.

He wasn't drunk, but he sure had several drinks. May I say to you, they never won him. A lot of people not being won today, my friend, because of the strife that's inside the church.

This is an interesting thing right here. The Canaanite and the Perizzite, they dwell in the land, and they still dwell in the land. They're right near your church, by the way.

Now will you notice, and Abram said unto Lot, let there be no strife. Now it's Abram, by the way, that makes the division. Abram's a great man.

Listen to him. I pray thee between me and thee and between my herdmen and thy herdmen, for we be brethren. It's not the whole land before thee, separate thyself, I pray thee, from me.

If thou wilt take the left hand, then I'll go to the right. If thou depart to the right hand, then I'll go to the left. And it took a big man to tell him that.

In other words, Lot could choose what he wanted, and Abraham would take what was left. Verse 10, And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest under Zoar. Now that was a beautiful spot in those days.

Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east, and they separated themselves the one from the other. Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. That's interesting.

All his days in that land, when he was with Abram, at night he'd just push back the flap of his tent and look out and say, Miss Lot, isn't that a beautiful spot down there? In the morning he'd get up and he'd say, My, it looks so attractive down there. And the grass is always greener in the other pasture, and when the day came when he could make a decision and go, you know the direction he went. No man falls suddenly.

It always takes place over a period of time. You begin to lift the flap of your tent, and you pitch your tent toward Sodom, and that's the beginning. Lot lifted up his eyes, he saw the plain, and he heads in that direction.

That's the biggest mistake he ever made in his life. Now he didn't know this, verse 13, but the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly. We'll see later what happened to Lot and Mrs. Lot and the family down in Sodom later on.

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