

From Creation to New Creation

Genesis 13:1-18

"Grace for the Humble"— June 19, 2022



Introduction

Why are there so many conflicts? James 4 explains it - it is our own passions. Wanting something isn't bad, but when what we want becomes something we must have and can't live without, it becomes our idol. We hold onto it tightly. To lose it would feel like death.

When two sides are in conflict because they are unwilling to let go of what they want, it is a matter of worship. Worship is an act of obedience motivated by who God is.

How can conflict be resolved? How can we find true peace? It begins with the true worship of God.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

1. Repentance leads to restoration. Vs. 1-7
2. Restoration leads to reflection. Vs. 8-13
3. Reflection leads to renewal. Vs 14-18

Read & Discuss

1) Read 13:1-7

It has been said that if you feel far from God, you should ask yourself, "Who moved?" God didn't. After Abram blows it in Egypt, he returns to Bethel and calls on the name of the Lord. He repents of his self-reliance, pride, deceit, and selfishness.

It's tempting to sweep our sins under the carpet. We tell ourselves that no one will know. God knows. But like the father of the prodigal son, He is waiting with open arms of love and mercy to forgive and restore.

Has there been a time in your life when you wandered away from God in self-reliance? Were afraid and ashamed to "go back the beginning" and repent? What happened in your heart when you did?

Additional Reading: *Luke 15*

2) Read 13:8-13

In this section of chapter 13, we see that Abram reflects the heart of God, but Lot reflects the heart of the world. Abram takes the initiative for peace. He gives Lot the first choice even though he had the rights of first choice as the oldest. He did this out of love. When you are hurt from a conflict, do you insist on your rights or strive for peace? Striving for peace means being humble. ([Matthew 5:9](#))

Abram understands that they are family and that conflict among the people of God dishonors God. Christian unity is not just about us being nice people. It is our witness to the watching world! ([John 13:34-35](#)) Abram is so affected by God's forgiveness, grace and generosity that he can reflect the heart of God in his generosity to Lot. In what ways can you strive for unity among brothers and sisters in Christ?

Lot, however reflects the heart of the world. He lives by sight. He sees that the land to the east has the potential for financial prosperity. He ignored the sin, but it will not go well for him. ([Proverbs 6:27](#))

Abram owned flocks but then didn't own him. On the other hand, Lot's flocks owned, controlled and enslaved him. Have you ever asked yourself, "how close can I get to the line without sinning?" You are already in danger. ([Proverbs 13:20](#)) Are there things in this world that have a tighter grasp on your heart than they should? When confronted with a choice, do you consider how you can honor God?"

3) Read 13:13-18

Life is short. We tend to be so busy. How can we know what's best? How do we look at something and rightly assess the value? There are two very different ways of looking. We can look at things the way the world does or we can look at things in response to God's word.

We need to see God as revealed in scripture. We need to believe God's word over what the world says. ([Romans 12:2](#)) God strengthened Abram's faith with His word.

Read God's word. Ask Him to help you see, understand, and obey what it says. ([Romans 10:17](#)) How has reading God's word transformed your mind and strengthened your faith?

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to Psalm 67 "Let the Nations Rejoice"
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