



CHOICES – TEXT: Genesis 13:1-18

We **MUST** make **SIGNIFICANT** choices in our **PILGRIMAGE** because...

- 1) **Circumstances CHANGE:** Genesis 13:1
- 2) **RESOURCES** must be **STEWARDED:** Genesis 13:2
- 3) **RELATIONSHIPS** are **COMPLICATED:** Genesis 13:5–6
- 4) **CONFLICT** occurs: Genesis 13:7
- 5) Choices are **INEVITABLE** in life regardless of how we **FEEL**

Choose **SHALOM (PEACE)** over **STRIFE:** Genesis 13:8

- 1) Choose **PEACE:** Romans 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; Matthew 5:9
- 2) Choose **UNITY:** Philippians 2:1–2. See also: Ephesians 4:1-3
- 3) Choose **DIVERSITY (FREEDOM for OTHERS):** Romans 14:13
 - a) **SYMPATHIZE** with each other's **FEELINGS:** 1 Peter 3:8
 - b) **VALUE** each other's **HUMANITY & PERSPECTIVES:** Rom. 12:16a
 - c) If **NECESSARY** for **PEACE – SEPARATE:** 1 Cor. 7:15 See: Titus 3:10
- 4) Choose **CHARITY (LOVE):** 1 Corinthians 13:4–5
- 5) **PEACE** isn't **ALWAYS POSSIBLE** in a broken **WORLD... BUT LOVE IS:** Romans 12:18; Ecclesiastes 3:1, 8; Luke 6:27. See: Matthew 5:43-48

Choose **SERVICE** over **SELF:** Genesis 13:9

- 1) **BEWARE SEEKING** the **BEST** for **YOURSELF:** Genesis 13:10-11
- 2) **REMEMBER** God's **COMMISSION** to **BE A BLESSING:** Gen. 12:2, 3c
- 3) **SEEK** the **GOOD** of **OTHER INDIVIDUALS** and **GROUPS, FIRST:** Philippians 2:3–4; Matt 7:12. See: Matt. 10:39, 22:39; 1 Cor. 10:24
- 4) **TRUST** God for your **PROVISION** and **JOY:** Matt 5:5 See: Ps 37:10-11

Choose the fellowship of **SANCTIFYING SAINTS** over **SOUL STULTIFYING SOCIETY:** Genesis 13:12-13

- 1) We were **CREATED** for **COMMUNITY:** Genesis 2:18a
- 2) We are **SAVED** to be in **GODLY COMMUNITY:** Hebrews 10:24–25. See Acts 2:42-46; Ephesians 1:11-22
- 3) **CORRUPT COMMUNITY** **CORRODES** **CHRISTIANS:** 1 Cor. 15:33

- a) Like **JESUS**, we **DO NOT** avoid **MISSIONAL** fellowship, hospitality, or all community with “sinners”. See: Mk 2:15-17
 - b) We are **IN THE WORLD** but **NOT OF IT:** John 17:15–16
 - c) We absorb **VALUES, NARRATIVES** and **IDENTITIES** from the **PREVAILING CULTURE** in our lives – they're “**CAUGHT**”
- 4) Choosing **COMFORT** over Godly **COMMUNITY** may **COST** our... **REST** (2 Peter 2:7–8); **AUTONOMY** (Genesis 14:12); **FAMILY'S SAFETY** (Genesis 19:8); **FAMILY** (Gen. 19:26) & **FUTURE** (Gen. 19:30, 36-38)
 - 5) We **NEED** the **FELLOWSHIP** of **SANCTIFYING SAINTS** to...
 - a) **EXHORT** us unto **GODLINESS:** Hebrews 3:13
 - b) **ENCOURAGE** us in and through the **GOSPEL:** Acts 14:22. See also: 1 Thessalonians 5:11, 15

Choose **FAITH** over **FEAR, FRUSTRATION, FUTILITY** or **FALSE FOUNDATIONS – FAITH** is not **EMPTY BELIEF** but rather...

- 1) **LOOKING** to **SEE** God's **WORK:** Genesis 13:14–15
- 2) **TRUSTING** God's **PROMISES (and TIMING):** Genesis 13:16
- 3) **ACTING** on those **PROMISES:** Genesis 13:17
- 4) **WORSHIPPING** God all **ALONG** the **WAY:** Genesis 13:3-4; 18

We are **EMPOWERED** to make these choices because **JESUS CHOSE** to...

- 1) **MAKE PEACE** between **US** and **GOD:** Colossians 1:19–20
- 2) **SERVE US** over **HIMSELF:** Mark 10:45. See also: Philippians 2:5-8
- 3) **CREATE** a **COMMUNITY** of **SAINTS:** Ephesians 2:14, 16, 19
- 4) **ENTRUST** Himself to God's **PURPOSE, PLAN** and **POWER:** Luke 22:42, 23:46. See also: John 6:38, 1 Peter 2:23

“Gospel In Life” questions for REFLECTION & APPLICATION

- 1) **BELIEVE:** WHAT TRUTHS did God **REVEAL** to me through His Word today about **HIM** and/or **MYSELF**?
- 2) **ASSESS:** HOW do these truths **ENCOURAGE** and/or **CHALLENGE** (convict) **ME**?
- 3) **PROCESS:** WHY is this message **GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL)** to **ME** today? (CONNECT the **GOSPEL** story to **MY** present story)
- 4) **CHANGE:** WHERE will I **APPLY (BELIEVE, REPENT, DO)** this message in **MY** own life this week?
- 5) **PROCLAIM:** WHO does God want **ME** to share these truths with?
- 6) **PREPARE for NEXT WEEK:** Read Genesis 14:1-24



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