



**Sermon Series:** Navigating Family Conflict

**To be used with Session 2:** Abram and Lot: Family Rights

**Sermon Title Possibilities:** Faithfulness in Family Reliability

**Scripture:** Genesis 13:1-18

**Connection with Unit Theme:** This sermon complements the Bible study “Navigating Family Conflict.” It shows us that we must become reliable to our human family by relying on our Heavenly Father. This message reinforces the point that we must trust God when challenged over our own rights or possessions.

**Introduction:** Genesis chapter thirteen tells the story of how the Lord had prospered Abram and Lot so good that they couldn’t continue to travel together due to conflict in the camp. It shows us how Abram took the higher road of not putting placement and possessions over his relationship with his nephew. This text reminds us that people are more important than possessions, positions, and places. Look with me and receive instruction and encouragement from the prosperity, the problem, the promise, and the practice we see in this text.

### **1. The Prosperity from the Lord (v. 1-4)**

The text tells us that Abram left Egypt with many cattle, silver, and gold. We learn from chapter twelve that these blessings came from the Lord. This is a reminder that every good and perfect gift comes from the Lord (James 1:17). Everything we have comes from the Lord and belongs to Him (Ps. 24:1-2; 50:10; Hag. 2:8). In the previous chapter, even though Abram lied about his wife, the Lord protected him from getting killed and his wife from getting taken as another man’s wife. Abram learned that he didn’t have to lie to receive the protection and prosperity of the Lord—all he had to do was trust God. May the Lord help us to trust Him for everything we need or want (Pro. 3:5-6; Ps. 23:1-6)

### **2. The Problem with Lot (v. 5-13)**

In these verses, we see the tension between the herdsmen, the temperament of Abram, and the tendency of Lot. The Bible says, “and there was quarreling between the herdsmen of Abram’s livestock and the herdsmen of Lot’s livestock.” This tension became so great that family members couldn’t remain together. The temperament of Abram is seen in the fact that he gave Lot first choice of where to go and he would go the opposite direction.

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Abram demonstrates a faith that says wherever I am, God has covered me. While we should seek to resolve friction, we should ask the Lord for a resolute temperament—a mindset in which we trust God in seasons of challenge. The tendency of Lot is what we want to avoid. The Bible says, “Lot looked out and saw that the entire plain of the Jordan as far as Zoar was well watered everywhere like the Lord’s garden and the land of Egypt.” And then it says, “So Lot chose the entire plain of Jordan for himself.” Lot put his faith and family in jeopardy by choosing to dwell near Sodom. We must be careful about what we put our families around. If you have tension and a tendency towards worldly possessions, ask the Lord to help you have a temperament of trust Him in all situations.

### **3. The Promise from the Lord (v14-17)**

Once Abram is separated from Lot, the Lord tells him to look in every direction and to walk throughout the length and breadth of the land. Then He tells Abram, I am going to give this land to you and your seed forever, and multiply your seed so that it can’t be numbered. This is the Abrahamic covenant restated. It is a reminder that God’s promises are sure. We become more trustworthy when we trust God more. Friend, the more we rely on God, the more our family members can rely on us.

### **4. The Practice of the Leader (v. 18)**

No doubt, Abram is the leader in this situation. Abram brought Lot with him when he called him out. Abram took the high road when tension arose in the camp. Abram is the oldest of the two men. Abram demonstrates what should’ve been doing and what we ought to be doing. That is: practicing prayer. The closes telling us that when Abram got to Hebron, he built an altar unto the Lord. Listen, I prayerful Christian is a peace-making Christian. A prayerful Christian is a trustworthy Christian. May the Lord help you and I to turn our prayer-life into a life of prayer.

**Conclusion:** May the Lord help us be reliable and trustworthy to our family members. May He enable us to be a portrait of faith and be people of peace. May the Lord help you and I to trust every promise that He has given us in Scripture. We can navigate family conflict by having a temperament of trust and developing the habit of prayer.

### **Author Bio**

*Reginald D. Taylor is a graduate of Crichton College, Union University, Capital Seminary, and is currently pursuing the Ph.D. degree at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the senior Pastor of The Rock Church and Assistant Professor/Director of Urban Theological Studies at MCUTS @ Union University in Memphis TN. He and his wife Dr. Tarra R. Taylor has one son—Reginald D. Taylor II—and three grandchildren Micah, Yara, and Aviyah.*

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