

SERIES TITLE: CHOICES

PART 2: VISIBLE OR INVISIBLE?

TEXT: GENESIS 13

INTRODUCTION.

As we continue studying through Genesis, we are introduced to a major character in the Old Testament, Abraham. After ten generations of silence, God speaks and gives incredible promises to this man. The choices that Abram makes are instructive for us. By his example we can learn what it means to live by faith. We can also discover how the wrong choices impact God's will for our lives.

DISCUSSION.

We make thousands of choices every week. What percentage of those would you classify as "important" and why?

EXAMINATION.

- Vv.1-4 What do you make of the fact that Abram got rich as a result of lying?
- Why is it significant that Abram went back to where he had been at the beginning?
- Vv.5-9 What do you think of Abram's solution for the strife with Lot's herdsmen?
- Vv.10-13 What are indicators that Lot's choice was not a good one?
- Vv.14-18 What are indicators that Abram was doing the right thing?

APPLICATION.

- How is this quote from C.S. Lewis in Mere Christianity relevant to Genesis 13?
"Every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before. And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing either into a heavenly creature or into a hellish creature: either into a creature that is in harmony with God, and with other creatures, and with itself, or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God, and with its fellow-creatures, and with itself. To be the one kind of creature is heaven: that is, it is joy and peace and knowledge and power. To be the other means madness, horror, idiocy, rage, impotence, and eternal loneliness. Each of us at each moment is progressing to one state or the other."

- The following four questions emerge from our text. Consider how each one can be beneficial in guiding the choices that we make.
 1. Does my choice align with God's Word (13:1-4)?
 2. Does my choice value relationship over rights (13:5-9)?
 3. Does my choice reflect godliness or personal gain (13:10-13)?
 4. Does my choice express confidence in God's promise (13:14-18)?
- What kinds of choices do you regularly make that should be effected by these questions?
- What future choices do you anticipate that should be informed by these questions?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?