

## Lot's Choice

**Intro:** An array of choices, some trivial, some crucial: 9 kinds of Cheerios; which toaster, VCR; degree program; who to marry; which job; where to live.

### 1. Lot's Choice

A. Abraham's magnanimous offer - Gn 13:6-9. Such a generous offer is a result of trust in God. It is not greedy, does not insist on own way.

B. Lot's choice - Gn 13:10-13.

1. Worldly advantages vs. moral/spiritual disadvantages.

2. Similar choices today:

a. Job - Money, promotion, stock option, etc. **vs.** attend parties, work weekends, extensive travel or other hindrances.

b. School - Study in England, culture, history **vs.** no sound church for 250 miles, loneliness, discouragement.

c. Residence - Vestavia **vs.** Hueytown. Vestavia is rich, socially and fashion conscious, drive Mercedes' and BMWs. Hueytown is blue collar, small homes but *high percentage of two-parent families*.

3. It is not always easy to determine what to do in a given situation; many variables. But *how high do we prioritize spiritual considerations when deciding?*

C. Maturity - Anticipate future consequences of choices. Lot didn't have to be rocket scientist.

### 2. Consequences of Lot's Choice

A. Daily anxiety over his environment - 2 Pet 2:7-8:

1. v 7 - "oppressed with ..." (*kata-down; poneo - labor*) - "to work down, to exhaust with labor." Lot was weary of the burden of wickedness around him.

2. v 8 - "tormented ..." - Lot was tested by continual exposure to the public displays of evil ("*seeing and hearing their lawless deeds ...*").

3. What, exactly, was this sin? Gn 18:20; 19:4-8; Jude 7. Our society is currently undergoing an assault to accept such behavior as normal, natural by connection

with genetics. Whatever the forces that draw people to homosexuality, **a choice** must be made to **practice** it or not. God forbids men to act on it.

B. Concern for the influence of his environment upon his family. While Lot apparently maintained his godliness, his family suffered the effects of living in Sodom:

1. Almost lost two virgin daughters - Gn 19:8, but see their corruption in 19:30ff in seducing and bearing children by their father.
2. Lost sons-in-law, who scoffed at his urgent pleas to escape - Gn 19:14.
3. Lost wife who disobeyed by looking back, evidently with some regret for what she had to leave behind - Gn 19:26 (Lk 17:32 - "*remember Lot's wife*").

C. A word to **fathers**:

1. Fathers have a responsibility to lead, guide, protect, foster spiritual growth and otherwise create a spiritually and morally healthy environment.
2. The choices you make as to where you live, what emphasis is placed upon material things, the popular culture you allow into your home, the emphasis placed upon Bible study, the associates of your children, whether they work, etc. ***will all influence them.***
3. It's past time for parents - fathers particularly - to stand up and take a stronger role in leading the family. ***Do our choices bring us as close to the world as possible?***

### **3. The Mercy of God**

A. Gn 19:15-22 - The angels led Lot by the hand and spared Zoar at Lot's request.

B. Sometimes we make some **bad** choices, but God is eager and willing to help us out of the mess we have made.

C. Sometimes we must live with the consequences of what we have done; they cannot be changed. But if we repent and work with all our might to make things better, God will bless our efforts and we will be a blessing to others.

***Right now, you have an opportunity to change whatever you need to change. Make the right choice!***