

# Where you pitch your tent matters?

## Did you know Abram went out camping also?

God spoke to him, and Told him to go to Canaan (the Promised Land) and he packed up and left. He was comfortable 75 yrs probably had a nice 401k and was set-up. He had a beautiful wife more on that later. Leaving was more than many of us ever actually do. He had to say goodbye to all he knew and loved and his father's house and go off as a nomad chasing God with no guarantees just a hope and a promise from God.

## Have you ever said you were going on a trip and some family just tag along or invite themselves?

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That's what happen here. Lot is the third wheel. He is the brother-in-law and nephew that invites himself and they can't say no. Image romantic dinner for two with Abram and his beautiful wife and a third chair for Lot. You gotta hand it to Lot he sees a meal ticket through this deal and goes for it in spite of being the third wheel.

Now, Abram not yet Abraham starts off strong like many of us as new Christians; however, he definitely fails pretty quickly out of the gate.

Let's see. Read Genesis 12:7-10 ***Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. 8 And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. 9 So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.***

***10 Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land.***

**Can you relate? Have you ever been there? You start off on fire for God but when the first hardship comes, you take off to Egypt!**

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Remember: When you read Egypt in the Bible, it is a metaphor for the World.

Examples today:

1. You are all about the the bible until you find out it is not popular at school, so you go quiet, or you turn on God all together.
2. Maybe you are in the workplace but you get informed by your boss that God Bless on your email or voice mail is offensive, so you delete it and go quiet.

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When we bow to world and fail to glorify Christ, we are essentially going to Egypt. We are no different. What happens when you go to Egypt?

1. Sin Multiples
2. Conflicts arise

Read Genesis 12:10-12

**10** Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine *was* severe in the land. **11** And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, “Indeed I know that you *are* a woman of beautiful countenance. **12** Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, ‘This *is* his wife’; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. **13** Please say you *are* my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you.”

It was innocent enough just a white lie, right? Half truth. However, one lie out of fear leads to another. Let’s read when Abram comes into the land of King Abimelech.

**Gen 20:9-13**

God talks to Abimelech in a dream and says he is a dead man for taking another man’s wife. Then, Abimelech wakes the next morning to confront Abram....Let’s read.

**9** And Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? How have I offended you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done deeds to me that ought not to be done.” **10** Then Abimelech said to Abraham, “What did you have in view, that you have done this thing?”

**11** And Abraham said, “Because I thought, surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will kill me on account of my wife. **12** But indeed she is truly my sister. She is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife. **13** And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father’s house, that I said to her, ‘This is your kindness that you should do for me: in every place, wherever we go, say of me, “He is my brother.”’ ”

How can you restore the blessings and fellowship with the Lord?

1. Leave Egypt / Return to the Promised Land (Gen 13:1-2)

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*Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South. Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.*

## 2. Call on the name of the Lord (13:3-4)

*3 And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, 4 to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the Lord.*

## 3. Resolve the conflict that arises from your sin. (Gen 13:5-7)

*5 Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. 6 Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together. 7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land.*

## 4. Trust in the Lord don't have to control the situation. (Gen 10:8-9)

*8 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left."*

## 5. Choose wisely. God has a different perspective than we do!

What was Lot's choice?

*Gen 13:10-13 10 And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. 11 Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. 12 Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. 13 But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord.*

Do you think it was appropriate for Lot (the third wheel) to take the premium land and leave Abram the rock hills to run the sheep? Did Lot pray before he made this decision?

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Did you notice Lot started off in the plains but soon pitched his tent toward Sodom (Gen 13:12)?

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Have you ever been tent camping and pitched your tent in a low spot then were flooded out?

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He had no intent to be wicked but that he would get close. Soon we read, he sits at the city gate in Sodom and then, he nearly loses everything and is barely spared.

You know Lot and his wife were in the tent and they could see the fires and lights at night of Sodom and they were drawn to it like a fly to the bug zapper.

Have you ever been there? Enticed by the what the world has to offer so you decide to head that way.

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What about Abram? After he separated from Lot, the Lord came to him and confirmed the covenant and the blessing promised. How about you? Where are you in the process?

1. Leave Egypt / Return to the Promised Land (Gen 13:1-2)
2. Call on the name of the Lord (Gen 13:3-4)
3. Resolve the conflict that arises from your sin. (Gen 13:5-7)
4. Trust in the Lord - don't have to control the situation. (Gen 13:8-9)
5. Choose wisely. God has a different perspective than we do! (Gen 13:10-13)
6. Sometimes you have to separate yourself, so God can use you fully! (Gen 13:14-18)

Things to ponder:

Did God design the land not big enough for both Lot and Abram? Gen 13:6

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Was it God's will for them to go to Egypt and accumulate vast possessions or was that their free will?

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Did the riches and possessions help Lot and Abram to stay together in deep fellowship with the Lord?

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Do you think more money and possessions are always a blessing or do you think we too accumulate so much our heart turns and we tend to pitch our tent toward Sodom?

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