

choice that is merely selfish, and is made without regard to moral results. Lot deliberately followed his greed for gain, and risked all else, including his own character and the highest well-being of his family. The fatal results will appear in the sequel of the story.

Lot stood on the hill of Bethel, and the rich pasture lands filled his gaze and captivated his heart. At the moment when he made his decision, he did not seem to have anything deep or spiritual in him. Sodom was close at hand, but he determined to take all risk of contamination, if indeed he debated the question at all. The one motive that ruled him at that moment was the chance of gain. It did not occur to him that he could not keep religious faith burning brightly in the Sodom atmosphere. It was a sad and ruinous decision, and the financial and moral

collapse which it brought, affected not only Lot himself, but his family as well.

"For what avail  
The plow or sail  
Or land or life,  
If manhood fail?"

Does not the story remind us that no man liveth to himself? Others are involved in our decisions. The father's business or manner of life will tell on the children. But chiefly we may learn this, that no man should decide what he will do with his life merely on the ground of worldly success. Let no young man whose heart has been touched and who has felt drawn to study for the ministry be tempted by the big wheat-fields of the West or by the rich rewards of business. We must play the part of the noble Abram, not of the blind, calculating Lot.

### THE LESSON GRADED

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

#### For Teachers of Bible Classes

Question briefly on the wanderings of Abram in Egypt, his sad moral lapse, his return to Bethel and his return to God in worship. Recall what is known of Lot. Lead the class in a discussion of:

1. *The problem which Abram and Lot faced.* Bring out: (a) The growing prosperity of uncle and nephew, as seen in the increase of their flocks and herds. (b) The conflict of interests occasioned by increasing population and wealth. Show that it is the same question now agitating the world of industry with its crowded cities, keen business rivalry and determined competition in every department. (c) The conflict of the workers, probably over the water supply. Picture the serious issues involved.

2. *The attitude of Abram.* Dwell on the fact of: (a) his appreciation of moral relations, "we be brethren;" (b) his vision of social efficiency, "peace;" (c) his large hearted generosity in offering Lot his choice of territory. Emphasize the fact that, as chief of the clan, Abram could well and reasonably have insisted upon deciding the

terms of separation. Instead he followed the nobler spirit, "in honor preferring . . . another." He was meek, not masterful, a peace maker, not a peace breaker, desiring the establishment of righteousness and brotherhood among men. He accepted the poorer ground with the service of God and risked all else. Follow out Jesus' teaching on this point as given in Matt. 5:1-12. Discuss Ps. 84:10; 133:1; Acts 7:26; Rom. 15:3, as giving further light.

3. *The attitude of Lot.* Bring out the fact, that it was based upon selfishness and covetousness. This is seen: (a) in his deliberate choice of the best section of the whole country; (b) in his yearning to profit by the gains and pleasures of Sodom, knowing the immorality of the city, vs. 12, 13. Bring out how Lot's greedy spirit risked the purity of his own life, his communion with God and the life and safety of his family. Take up covetousness as a sin. (See Mark 8:36, 37.) Discuss the danger of this spirit. The only remedy is a life filled with faith, love and good works.

4. *The vision of the meek,* vs. 14-18. Emphasize the fact that this came after Abram had so generously yielded temporal advantages to Lot, and he had taken possession of the barren hills about Hebron. After Lot