



INTIMACY WITH GOD AFFECTS YOUR DECISIONS

WORSHIP: Friend of God/ I want to know You/ Change my heart, O God/ I give You my heart/ I will sing

WELCOME: Nuclear Holocaust: Who should survive?

Group participants into 2 groups. Among 10 people, only 5 can fit in a bunker to survive the holocaust. Choices are: scientist, pastor, married couple who are drug addicts, a single pregnant woman, an elderly woman, an army officer who is mentally unstable, a corrupt lawyer, a lazy doctor, a man on welfare too lazy to find work, and a 5 year old little girl. Discuss who should survive and why?

WORD:

"By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed ^aby going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; ¹⁰for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God." Hebrews 11:8-10

Intimacy with God will bring us to make the right decisions. It changes our perspective and priorities in life. It is in remaining in His presence that we are able not only to make the right decisions but stand by those decisions.

Decision making is like standing at a crossroad. You always have two choices: to go left or to go right.

Abraham (Genesis 12 and 13)

- Abraham chose to obey God. By faith, he left his homeland and went where the Lord led him. He did not question the Lord.
- He did this because he heard God, he saw God and he knew God had a plan for his life.
- He continued to honor God, worshipped Him and everywhere he settled he built an altar for the Lord. He continued to pray to God and called upon to Him.
- It was this intimacy with God that helped Abraham make the right decisions in his life. His decisions were based on faith in God and the understanding that God had a plan for Him.
- We have to bear in mind that the presence of God brings provision and protection.
- In Gen 12:2- 3 the Lord promised Abraham *"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth on earth will be blessed through you."*
- Abraham did not put much value in hierarchy or "rights". He allowed Lot to make the first choice. And because of his humility, God gave him the better option.
- Abraham continued to be faithful and hold on to God's promise that he would become the father of all nations. Even when he was laughed at because Sarah had borne him a child in her old age.
- Abraham chose to pursue intimacy with God and to remain in His presence holding on to God's promises to him. As a result of his faithfulness, God continued to bless him and his descendants.

Lot (Genesis 13, 18 and 19)

- When Lot was with Abraham, he too was blessed. But a point came that they had to part ways.
- He chose the well watered plain, the more obvious choice and chose not consult God. He ended up pitching his tents near Sodom and later on settled in the city.

- He based his decision on what he perceived as the more attractive and abundant. He decided to take the easier option of the two choices.
- He knew the wickedness that existed in Sodom and yet he opted to pitch his tent in that vicinity.
- Lot did not have an intimate relationship with God and so he had no moral influence over his family. His future son-in-laws did not believe him. His wife did not obey him so she turned into a pillar of salt. His daughters opted to fall into incest.
- His decisions which at the onset seemed to be the upper hand, later became his downfall. He tried to be a just and righteous man, but Lot continued to compromise. Thus he was unable to leave a godly legacy.
- His descendants the Moabites and the Ammonites suffered the consequences of his decisions. (Deuteronomy 23)

Discussion:

1. Nuclear holocaust: what did you notice about how decisions were made? What were the decisions based on? Beauty? Intelligence? Power? Usefulness? Age? Ability?
2. Do you find yourself at a crossroad at this point in your life?
3. How do you process your thoughts before making a decision?
4. Are there any decisions that you have made and now regret? What are the lessons that you have learned from this?
5. Have you ever tried relying on the Lord for your decision making?

WORKS:

*“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.
¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” Matthew 7:13-14*

Lot opted to choose the gate that was broad but led to destruction. Abraham on the other hand chose the narrow less popular road. Like Lot, often times we also opt to take the easier road. When we hear God’s word our first instinct is to hesitate to obey, then we try to argue our way around it and even try to negotiate with God. But God will continue to wrestle with us, as He did with Jacob until we break and surrender to Him and then we will be where God wants us to be. Lot was blessed and lost everything because he made wrong decisions. He had chosen his pleasure over what would give God pleasure. Abraham was blessed and found favor with God, because continued to obey God by faith. He listened to God and followed where God led him. He persisted in developing an intimate relationship with God and did not cease to worship Him.

Reflect on:

1. What is God commanding you to do? Is He asking you to uproot yourself from your comfort zone and go to a place where He will lead you to? Is He asking you to be like Abraham, to faithfully hold on to His promises and wait for the fulfillment of His plans for your life? Is He asking you to give up your “right to first refusal”? Is He asking you to humbly submit to His will?
2. Jesus commands that we should take the narrow road and enter the small gate. He invites us to fellowship with Him as we continue to listen to His word, and surrender to Him in obedience. Will you take the challenge and chose this road? Will you be one of the few who chose to be set apart and belong to Him?

Let us continue to pray for each other that the Lord will bless us with the grace to have an unwavering trust in Him. To continually hunger for Him. To continue to pursue only Him. To see the Giver and not just the gifts. As a family, let us all continue to pray that we will find the home that God has chosen for us. . . and that we all continue to faithfully look forward to the city whose foundations was lovingly made by the greatest architect, God.