

Choosing the obvious?

During his stay in Egypt and the Negev, Abram had become very wealthy in livestock, silver and gold (Genesis 13:1-2). His nephew Lot, who was with him, also had flocks, herds and tents (Genesis 13:5). At some point in time they realized that they were no longer able to stay together as the land would not provide sufficient grazing etc. for both their livestock. So Abram, the uncle and older of the two, gave Lot, the younger one, the choice which land to utilize. And Lot chose the apparently much better part, the well watered plain of the Jordan, which looked like the garden of Eden (Genesis 13:10), while Abram resolved to live in Canaan.

- Right here we could ask ourselves: How would we react in an economical challenging situation that appears to leave not enough room for several parties? Would we fight for our rights? Would we demand things? Would we seize the opportunity to grab hold of the best possible option like Lot did, being rather inconsiderate to the older one? Or would we have the maturity of Abram to give up our right of first choice and allow the younger, more immature to choose? Would we have faith like Abram that, despite giving up the well watered plain for the benefit of someone else, God would see us through and bless us?

Well, Lot made his choice, very likely on what he could see. And as we read on, what looked like the obvious and best choice for him turned out to become hell (Genesis 13:13).

- And I wonder: How often do we make economical decisions purely based on what we can see (e.g. the well watered plain), our experience (e.g. a well watered plain provides food for us and our livestock) and what we can figure out ourselves (e.g. since I have the chance to choose, I should grasp that opportunity as it could be a once in a lifetime)? Wouldn't it be wiser and essential to hold back that decision for a while and ask the One, who can see what we can't, to give us insight, so that we don't end up being engulfed and hijacked by the evil around us?

The interesting part is, that while Abram showed contentment with what was left after Lot made his choice, God showed up and blessed him with an amazing promise (Genesis 13:14-17).

- Bears the question: Is it possible that we miss out on God's goodness and provision, because we are so conditioned on making economical decisions based on the obvious rather than the infinite power and possibilities of our Creator?