

LOOK UP FROM WHERE YOU ARE

“The Lord said to Abram after Lot had departed from him, “Lift up your eyes from where you are....” Genesis 13:14

God called Abram to say goodbye to his family and his homeland, and to embark on a new journey. So Abram took his wife, the things and the people they had acquired, and his nephew Lot; and they left all that was familiar to them to obey the voice of the Lord. Along the way, the Lord God prospered both Abram and Lot. They both had become very wealthy men owning many cattle, servants, and household goods. Before too long the two became so prosperous that the land couldn't sustain both men's riches and there arose dissention and quarreling between Lot's servants and Abram's servants. One day Abram told Lot that they were family and he did not like the quarreling that had risen between the two of them and their herdsmen. He wanted peace between them and the time had come for them to separate. He even gave Lot first choice of the land. Lot looked around and chose the richest, grassiest land...what appeared to be the best land. The Bible says that after Lot departed, God told Abram, “Lift your eyes from where you are...” and then He began to speak of all the wonderful things He had in store for Abram.

That's a quick summary of the story in Genesis 12 and 13. Abram had not had it easy in many ways. Yes, he had become very wealthy but there are things money cannot buy. Abram had been separated from all his family, he had basically become a nomad, he and his wife had no children and now he watched his nephew...the only family he had left...walk away to begin a new life apart from him. Not only that, but when Abram gave Lot a choice of the land, he chose the richest for himself. I would imagine that Abram's countenance was pretty low. I would suspect that he felt used and very alone. I believe it's significant that the Word says ‘after Lot departed from him’ God said, “Lift up your eyes from where you are....”

Where are you? What situation do you find yourself in? Why are your eyes downcast? I believe the Lord Jesus would say to you today just like He did Abram, “Lift up your eyes *from where you are.*” Are you battling illness? Lift up your eyes *from where you are* in the midst of that illness because by His stripes you are healed. Maybe you're in a financial mess. Lift up your eyes *from where you are* in the midst of the debt because Jesus died for your prosperity. Perhaps you are a prisoner to pornography, alcohol, food or some other addiction. Lift up your eyes *from where you are* because Jesus came to release prisoners and set captives free. Do fear and terror grip your life? Lift up your eyes *from where you are* because God didn't give you a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind. Maybe you are plagued with turmoil and chaos day in and day out. Lift up your eyes *from where you are* because Jesus was punished for our peace. Are you grieving over a loss, a prodigal, a friend or spouse that walked away? Lift up your eyes *from where you are* because Jesus carried that sorrow. Even if you are in the midst of willful sin it's not too late. Lift up your eyes *from where you are* and repent because he was pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities (those generational sins that are passed down to us from our forefathers). For some of you, you've walked with the Lord for awhile and have been delivered from most of what I've mentioned. Maybe you just want more of Him...the deeper things of God. Lift up your eyes *from where you are* because there's more!

The phrase 'lift up your eyes' is important but I want you to focus on the phrase 'from where you are'. You see, religion (the law) would tell us we have to get all cleaned up before we dare approach the Savior, but the Savior says, "Lift up your eyes *from where you are*" and I'll clean you up and show you promises you never knew were out there for you. "Lift up your eyes *from where you are* and I'll not only show you your destiny, I'll bring you into it." He is telling you to look up...lift up your eyes to Him just as you are. Abandonment, rejection, abuse, divorce, depression, shame, sin...you may be in the midst of that now but from where you are, know that He loves you and He sees your pain. He saw Abram's broken heart as he faced yet another separation but He knew the destiny He was calling him into...the Father of Many Nations. Abram had to look up from where he was to see even a glimpse of what God had in store for him. No matter where you are, you are never outside the love of the Father. You are never out of His reach and you are never in a pit so deep that He cannot pull you out.

When Peter had stepped out of the boat onto the stormy sea to walk on the water to meet Jesus, all was well for a little bit; but then Peter took his eyes off of Jesus and put them on the storm causing him to sink. Immediately he looked up from the stormy sea...*from where he was*...and said, "Lord, save me." The Lord Jesus reached out His hand and rescued Peter right away...at that very moment. He didn't tell him to get his head above water and then He'd save him. He didn't tell him to swim back to the boat. He didn't lecture him about all he'd done wrong. When Peter cried out from the middle of the stormy sea, Jesus was right there ready to rescue him and bring him to safety. God is no respecter of persons. What He did for Peter and what He's done for so many others, He will do for you.

Lift up your eyes from where you are because today is the day of your salvation.