

"Saved but Singed"
Genesis 19:16-26

"Abraham - the Father of our Faith"

SERMON SERIES PLANNED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO - PASSAGE FOR
TODAY

MOTHER'S DAY - "SALTY MOM" - only at Haili Church
WON'T FIND HELEN STEINER RICE POEM IN HALMARK CARD on Lot's
Wife

REALISTIC LOOK AT REAL FAMILY - REAL MOM - RELATIONSHIP WITH
GOD

FAMILY BETRAYS ATTITUDE OF MANY OF US CHRISTIAN'S
"wouldn't it be alright if I sinned just a little bit?"

WHY CAN'T I HAVE IT BOTH WAYS?
why can't I follow Jesus Christ and also direct my own life?

Why can't I follow God most of the time,
then disobey Him from time to time when I really want to?

CAN'T I SIN JUST A LITTLE BIT?

UGANDAN EVANGELIST IN STREET MEETING IN NAIROBI, KENYA
"Raise your hand if you want to go to hell!"
NOT SURPRISINGLY, NONE RAISED THEIR HANDS

"Raise your hand, if you want to really believe in Jesus as your ☐
Savior, and follow Him faithfully as your Lord and Master"
SADLY, NO ONE RAISED THEIR HANDS FOR THAT EITHER

NO ONE WANTS TO GO TO HELL - NO ONE WANTS TO SUBMIT FULLY TO
GOD

1. Destruction of the Worthy

a. Just TERRIBLE STORY OF WRATH, PUNISHMENT, AND TORMENT

SOME PEOPLE SAY - that's why we don't read the Old Testament
MEAN, ANGRY GOD OF WRATH & PUNISHMENT // Gentle Jesus meek & mild

G 18.25 Far be it from you to do such a thing--to kill the righteous w/ the wicked,
treating the righteous & the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of
all the earth do right?

YES! HE WILL DO RIGHT - HE CANNOT DO WRONG - CANNOT DENY
HIMSELF

Genesis 18:20-21 the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so
great and their sin so grievous {21} that I will go down and see if what they have
done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know."

HE WILL KNOW PERFECTLY - HE WILL DISPENSE PERFECT JUSTICE
PEOPLE OF SODOM FULLY DESERVED THE JUDGMENT - WORTHY OF IT

WHEN THE ANGELS OF GOD CAME TO THEIR CITY

Genesis 19:13 we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its
people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it."

EMPHASIS IS THAT DESTRUCTION REALLY COMES FROM GOD
{24} Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah--from
the LORD out of the heavens.

THOUGH GOD MAY HAVE USED EARTHQUAKES OR VOLCANOES
HIS WAS THE SOVEREIGN HAND THAT CAUSED IT TO HAPPEN

4000 year old story - very different world / culture / lifestyles

ACROSS 50 STATES OF OUR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Most states have dropped laws against Sodomy
Many states allow homosexual couples to adopt children
One state is on the verge of performing same-sex marriages

TRAGIC USE OF WORD TO DESCRIBE LIFESTYLE "gay"/ MOST ANYTHING
BUT

CHRISTIANITY TODAY "A random sample of homosexual men in their 30's found this: only 1 is faithful to his partner, and within 1 year that relationship will end; 8 have a sexually transmitted disease; 3 are HIV positive; 1 has AIDS; 3 are alcoholics; 4 have experienced chronic depression; 3 have considered suicide; and 2 have actually attempted suicide"

Romans 1:18-20 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, {19} since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. {20} For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

b. Swift HAPPENS SOONER AND FASTER THAN ANYONE IMAGINES

CAME A POINT WHERE THEY HAD GONE TOO FAR AGAINST GOD

CROSSED THE LINE OF JUDGMENT / PASSED BOUNDARY OF HIS MERCY

{17} As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!"

{25} Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities--and also the vegetation in the land.

Matthew 24:36 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father..."

{45} "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? {46} It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. {47} I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. {48} But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' {49} and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. {50} The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. {51} He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

MOST PEOPLE - EVEN OLD PEOPLE - DEATH COMES TOO SOON

VERY SWIFT - VERY SURPRISING - LEAVING BEHIND PEOPLE IN SHOCK

2. Deliverance of Unworthy

a. Undeserved MANY THINK BECAUSE SOMEONE IS IN BIBLE THEY'RE GOOD

VISITED FRIENDS FROM COLLEGE IN HOME TOWN OF DOTHAN, ALABAMA

"what kind of name is that" - DOTHAN is a place in the Bible
PLACE WHERE JOSEPH'S BROTHERS BEAT HIM UP AND LEFT HIM FOR DEAD!

SAME PEOPLE THINK "I cannot go to church, I am a bad person"

LOT - MAN IN THE BIBLE - INCREASINGLY OBVIOUS - NOT A GOOD MAN

A MAN WHO CALLS THE MEN OF SODOM HIS FRIENDS

A MAN WHO SAT IN GATE OF CITY OF SODOM - ruler / gov't official

A MAN WHO OFFERED HIS OWN DAUGHTERS TO SATISFY THESE PERVERSE MEN

WHATEVER HIS BAD QUALITIES - GOOD HE REALIZED HIS UNWORTHINESS

{19} Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life.

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast.

Titus 3:5-7 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, {6} whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, {7} so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Romans 4:2-5 If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about--but not before God. {3} What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." {4} Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. {5} However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

b. Unbelieved INVENT A WORD FOR FAMILIAR CONCEPT

STRANGE PARADOX - RECEIVED GOD BUT DID NOT BELIEVE GOD

THAT ADDED TO THE THINKING OF HIS SONS-IN-LAW THAT HE WAS JOKING

DID NOT REALLY BELIEVE IT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN

TOO COMFORTABLY ATTACHED TO THIS WORLD // ROOTS SUNK TOO DEEP

COMMON PROBLEM - DENIAL OF OUR OWN MORTALITY
WE KNOW PEOPLE DIE - SEEN DEATH - BUT WE WILL NOT EVER DIE!!
HAVE NO WILL - NO PLANS TO HELP SURVIVING FAMILY
REASON WHY FUNERAL BUSINESS SO LUCRATIVE
capitalize on the guilt and confusion of the grieving family

ANGEL OF GOD SAYS TO FLEE THE WRATH OF GOD

{18} But Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please!

IN MERCY THEY OFFER A WAY OF ESCAPE - CHANCE OF SALVATION
LOT SAYS "NO, no wait a minute - Let's do this my way!!"

DON'T KNOW HIS PROBLEM WITH THE MOUNTAINS - UNCLEAR FROM TEXT

MORE AFRAID OF THE MOUNTAINS THAN THE WRATH OF GOD

PROCESS OF HIS BARTERING WITH ANGELS

1) GOD HAS BEEN GOOD ENOUGH TO SAVE HIM -
NOW ALLOW HIM A LITTLE SIN - LET ME TAKE THINGS IN CONTROL

2) PERHAPS HE THINKS HE DOES NOT HAVE ABILITY TO REACH
MOUNTAINS

SHOWS NO FAITH IN GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL / SUPERNATURAL ABILITY
if God can send fire to destroy Sodom/ he can deliver Lot

AFTER GOD DEFEATED THE IDOLS OF EGYPT IN THE TEN PLAGUES
THE ISRAELITES CANNOT BELIEVE HE WILL OPEN THE RED SEA
Exodus 14:11 They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt
that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out
of Egypt?"

3) LOT ARGUES THAT THE TOWN IS VERY SMALL / name Zoar = SMALL

IN OTHER WORDS - CAN'T I SIN JUST A LITTLE BIT / VERY SMALL SIN

THIS IS NOT A PRAYER IT IS A BARGAIN - "I'll have it MY WAY"

MAY 18, 1980 display of power not like Sodom - happened in USA

EXPLOSION = 10 million tons of TNT // 500 X's HIROSHIMA

300 degree blast of HEAT - traveled over 200 miles an hour

1,300 feet of Mt. Saint Helens was ripped away in seconds

3.2 billion board ft = 200,000 3 bedroom homes / LUMBER DESTROYED

60 PEOPLE KILLED - some as far as 16 miles away - WHY? UNBELIEF?

SHERIFF BILL CLOSNER "People were in the danger areas around the mountain
because they refused to obey roadblocks. The bottom line is that nobody would
listen."

MAN WITH SON TORMENTED BY AN EVIL SPIRIT CAME TO JESUS

Mark 9:22-24 "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can
do anything, take pity on us and help us."

HONEST DOUBT - NEVER SEEN SON WELL - CANNOT IMAGINE HEALING

{23} "If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." {24}
Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my
unbelief!"

ONE OF MOST HONEST STATEMENTS OF FAITH IN SCRIPTURE
HONEST PLEA BLESSED BY JESUS - BOY HEALED AND FAITH WAS
RESTORED

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to
all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

EMPHASIZES GRACE OF GOD IN SALVATION EVEN MORE
WE CANNOT EVEN HAVE FAITH TO BELIEVE IT - FAITH ITSELF A GIFT
SALVATION ALL OF GRACE - FROM FIRST TO LAST / BEGINNING TO
END

3. Delay not Worth It

WHAT WERE THEY REALLY WAITING FOR - ALL FOR NOTHING

a. Cargo DANGER OF LOVING THINGS MORE THAN GOD / GIFTS NOT
GIVER

v. 15 ANGELS TELL TO FLEE CITY EMPTY-HANDED / TOOK NOTHING
ALONG

v. 16 GRABBED BY HAND - carrying nothing / HESITATED

GOING BACK INTO HOUSE TO PICK UP SOME ESSENTIALS

BACKPACKING - MAKES YOU THINK OF WHAT YOU REALLY NEED TO
CARRY

ONE THING TO LIFT HEAVY PACK AT BEGINNING OF DAY - GETS
HEAVIER

THINGS YOU THOUGHT YOU REALLY NEEDED TO TAKE WERE DEAD
WEIGHT

SO LOT AND FAMILY FORCED TO LEAVE IT ALL BEHIND

LOT - HOME ENTERTAINMENT CENTER / LAZY BOY CHAIR / GOLF CLUBS

WIFE - ORNAMENTAL SPOON COLLECTION / MICROWAVE OVEN / NEW CAR

DAUGHTERS - CLOTHES / CD's & VIDEOS / TELEPHONE / TRINKETS

1 Timothy 6:7-10 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it...{9} People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. {10} For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs

HAVING THINGS IS NOT PROBLEM IN ITSELF/ NEED THINGS IN THIS WORLD

PROBLEM - NOT REALIZING THAT THINGS ARE JUST FOR THIS WORLD

1 Corinthians 7:29-32 What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who...use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away. {32} I would like you to be free from concern.

b. Commitments TWISTED AND PAINFUL RELATIONSHIPS

v. 12 ANGELS OF GOD NOT THINKING OF THEIR POSSESSIONS BUT PEOPLE

MOST IMPORTANT AND ETERNAL THING IS THE HUMAN SOUL

WHY WE ARE NOT TO BE UNEQUALLY YOKED WITH UNBELIEVERS

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?...{17} "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." {18} "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." {7:1} Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

WE WILL NOT SHARE HARMONY WITH UNBELIEVERS IN THIS WORLD

AND WILL NOT SHARE HEAVEN WITH THEM IN THE WORLD TO COME

HAVE NO BUSINESS BEING YOKED TOGETHER IN LIFE COMMITMENTS
W/ THEM

SADLY - GREATEST COMMITMENT OF LOT WAS TOO HIMSELF - SELFISH

{19} sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I'll die. {20}...Let me flee to it- Then my life will be spared."

2 Tim 3:1-5 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. {2} People will be lovers of themselves

LITTLE SINS BECOME ADDICTING - LEAD TO GREATER AND GREATER
SINS

WE HAVE AN INSATIABLE APPETITE FOR SIN / NEED EVER STRONGER
DOSE

Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

ROOT IS QUITE SMALL - GROWS INTO GIANT PLANT
ORNAMENTAL MICONIA WHICH GROWS TO TAKE OVER ENTIRE
ISLAND

THINK PERHAPS IT WILL NOT HURT ANYONE ELSE / JUST A LITTLE SIN

- Lot's lack of leadership helped to shape his wife's character
- Lot's poor fathering helped shaped his incestuous daughters

JAMES BOICE "Fathers, your sin of family neglect or drinking or sexual escapades will hurt your family. They will hurt your wife and children. Mothers, your socializing will hurt your children, who need your love and care. Young people, the sins of your youth - your drugs, drinking, and promiscuity - will hurt everyone with whom you have contact. They will hurt your parents who want better things for you. They will hurt your peers, for you will be a part of the pattern of life that destroys them and their potential. In the future, you will be less prepared for the work you have to do. Ministers, the sin of your neglect of Bible study and sermon preparation will hurt your parishioners Employers, your sins will hurt your employees. Workmen, your halfhearted work will hurt your company and other workers.

Politicians, your sins will injure the people your are elected to represent. Sin always has consequences, both to the individual who sins and for others."

c. Compromise THE SIN WHICH DESTROYED LOT'S WIFE

{26} But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

WAS NOT A LITTLE LOOK / IT WAS A LONGING LUST

JESUS COMMENTARY ON THIS EVENT

Luke 17:29-32 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. {30} "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. {31} On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. {32} Remember Lot's wife!

DANGER OF PRAYER WITHOUT MEANING IT

James 1:6 he must believe and not doubt...That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord

ONE OF PAUL'S COLLEAGUES WAS NAMED DEMAS - HE SADLY
COMMENTS

2 Tim 4:10 Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me

APOSTLE JOHN DESCRIBES THOSE WHO FELL AWAY

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

PROBLEM WITH SINNING JUST A LITTLE BIT
IS THAT YOU CAN SIN JUST A LITTLE BIT

THERE WOULD BE NO DANGER IF GOD ALWAYS STEPPED IN TO STOP
US

HE DOES NOT - HE LETS US GO - DANGER OF OUR FREEDOM

He let Lot make decision to get closer & closer to Sodom

He allowed Abraham to tell the Pharaoh his wife was his sister

He allowed the Israelites to make a Golden Calf and worship it

He allowed David to have Bathsheba and kill her husband Uriah

He did not stop the Prodigal Son from leaving home

TRAGIC PHRASE - 3 X's in Romans 1 "God gave them over"

JAMES BOICE "In the final analysis, God will allow you to do what you are committed to doing - and you will have to bear the consequences"

HE allowed Mrs. Lot that last longing look/ I HOPE SHE ENJOYED IT

TYPICAL MOTHER'S DAY THOUGHT - HOW WONDERFUL MOM'S ARE / GOOD

WE THINK APPRECIATIVELY OF ALL THEY DO FOR US - WE SHOULD

ALL THAT IS TRUE - MOST WONDERFUL THING - MADE BY WONDERFUL GOD

WONDERFUL LOVE AND MERCY OF GOD SHOWN IN GIVING JESUS FOR MOMS

MOST WONDERFUL THING IS A MOM (or Dad) WHO DOES NOT LOOK BACK

MOM WHO LOVES JESUS WHOLEHEARTEDLY / LEADS THE WAY FOR FAMILY

NOT WAY TO DESTRUCTION - WAY TO EVERLASTING LIFE