

Genesis 19.30-38

“Not Quite Out of Sodom...”

QUESTION Young People in Churches often ask Youth Pastors

“How far can I go sexually with my boyfriend or girlfriend?”

CONSCIENCE > tells them there MUST be a MORAL BOUNDARY

SINFUL NATURE > wants to PUSH that BOUNDARY far as possible

Here See Lot PUSHING Moral Boundaries > Perhaps FALLEN Over the Edge

Scene Shifts > from Mtn. Overlook > Abe viewed smoking aftermath of S & G

ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE SCORCHED VALLEY > Opposite Side

v. 30 Lot and his two daughters...settled in the mountains

Mrs. Lot – Mama Lot – Remained forever standing on the Valley floor

Facing “Home Sweet Home” of Sodom > Last thing she ever Saw

LOT Rescued from Judgment – TWICE -

14.11-16 “four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah...They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot...since he was living in Sodom...When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit...He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot”

19.16 “the men (angels?) grasped his hand (Lot) and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them”

DID GOD SAVE LOT FROM FINAL JUDGMENT? > Only He Knows

Story seems more appropriate for Late Night Television, or scratched onto walls of toilet stall in bus station --- NOT IN THE HOLY BIBLE!

Many Commentaries on Genesis > Skip this Section > Unfit for Preaching!

Where should kids learn about life? > even dark side? > Human Nature?

Movies? Internet Chats? Channel V? Worldly Friends? OR THE BIBLE?

Bible > Open Presentation of Life > Shameless? > GOD’S Perspective

CREATOR > Man in His Own Image > Partakers of His Glory

JUDGE > Man is Morally Responsible > Ultimately Accountable

REDEEMER > Sinful Man is Loved by a Gracious God > Made New in X

Scripture > Portrays people all along that Spectrum > Sinners to Saints

2 Types of People: 1. Sodom on the Inside 2. Savior on the Inside

1. Sodom on the Inside

a. From Godly Companionship to a Godless Cave

v. 30 “Lot and his two daughters lived in a cave”

30 yrs before: Lot met God w/ his Uncle Abram: 11.31 “Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot... together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan

12.4 “Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him”

SOON LOT GOT TOO MANY POSSESSIONS > Needed to UPSCALE

13.10-12 “Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the LORD... So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company... Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. “

SEPARATION > from Spiritual Father > NO LONGER IN FELLOWSHIP

14.12 BRIGHT LIGHTS Irresistibly Beckoned- Lot “was living in Sodom”

19.1 “Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city” > HE WAS SOMEBODY!

Angels to Lot’s family – 19.17 “Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!”

MOUNTAINS where Abraham Was > Could be Reunited, Restored Fellowship
Lot went OPPOSITE DIRECTION > Never saw Abe Again

v. 30 “Lot and his two daughters lived in a cave”

b. From Fearful Faith to Faithless Fear

Fear and Faith are COMPLIMENTARY not Contradictory > Fear is Normal

Step OUTSIDE Comfort Zone > Jump out of Airplane > Sitting Final Examination
Rush of Adrenalin > Can be the Fuel for Success and Safety

UNDERSTANDABLE > Lot AFRAID > v. 30 “he was afraid to stay in Zoar.”
Who Wouldn’t Be? > City still Smoldering > Beloved Wife was Salt Statue

God Promised safety in little town of Zoar > LOT COULD NOT BELIEVE IT!

WHERE do you go w/ FEAR? Draw Near to God or Drive Away from Him?
God wants us to BRING OUR FEARS TO HIM > He's Greater than our Fears!

“The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.”
Psalm 25.14

“The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.”
Psalm 34.7

“As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him”
Psalm 103.13

“He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.”
Psalm 145.19

NO BETTER PLACE TO BRING OUR FEARS > than to God Himself

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.” 1 John 4.18

Holy Fear of God leads to Fearfully Following > Grows into Perfect Love

c. From Morality to Amorality

At some point > Lot was MORALLY REPELLED by Evils of Sodom
Was RELATIVELY More Righteous than Sodomites

“Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)”
2 Peter 2.7,8

Gradually SHOCKING became STANDARD > Degradation was Daily Routine
Lot became CONFORMED to Sodom > Instead of TRANSFORMING Sodom

vs. 31,32 “One day the older daughter said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no man around here to lie with us, *as is the custom all over the earth*. Let's get our father to drink wine and then lie with him and preserve our family line through our father."

Dear Old Dad became their DRUNKEN SPERM BANK > Like Everybody Does!

SODOM was ALIVE and WELL INSIDE THEM > PERVERSE Ideas & Actions

IMMORAL > law breaker, violates moral standards, conscience impressionable

AMORAL > No Law, No Standards, No Conscience > No Absolute Truth

GRIM CONCLUSION Time of Israel's Judges: "everyone did as he saw fit"
Judges 21.25

Paul: FREIGHT TRAIN of SIN Lumbers Down Steep Incline of Godless Society

"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness... their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened... they claimed to be wise, they became fools...exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images... Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity... They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator... God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion... they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also *approve of those who practice them.*"

DEPTH OF DEGRADATION > Not Homosexuality > but AMORALITY

"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter." Isaiah 5.20

No UNIVERSAL MEANING > No Good, No Truth, No Right, No God

SECULAR MAN'S CREED -

Only thing Absolutely True today is that there is No Absolute Truth!

d. From Man to Beast Last Reference to Lot in Genesis >

v. 36 “both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father”

God made Lot and His Daughters in His Own Image > Crowned with Glory

David asked: what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field”

Psalm 8.4-7

GOD PLACED MAN IN BETWEEN > Below Himself, Above the Animals

LOOK UP > Become MORE LIKE GOD / Look DOWN > Become Beasts

LOOK DOWN > Let Evolution make a MONKEY out of YOU!

Most Advanced Primate > Mandrill named Man > ANIMAL NATURE

Recent Breakthrough SCIENTIFIC Hypothesis > Some Monkey’s are GAY!

Film – “Legally Blond 2” – Must See Classic – Pet Dog’s can be GAY!

Discovery Few Years Ago – Certain Types of Ducks > Practice GANG RAPE

PERVERSE ANIMALS BECOME OUR STANDARD!! Model Behavior!!?

“If you will not have God, there is no point at which you can stop in your moral and spiritual decline. God is the only one who can hold his creatures up and remold them by grace into the image of Jesus Christ. Therefore, if instead of having him we turn our own way, as Lot did, then we will go down, down, down – individually and nationally as well.”

James Boice

e. From Blessing to Curse

Promise Given to Abraham > when Lot was WITH HIM

12.3 “all peoples on earth will be blessed through you”

Warning in 10 Commandments -

“I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me” Exodus 20.5

Some of FINAL WORDS Moses spoke to Israel:

“This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

Deuteronomy 30.19,20

SINS OF LOT AND DAUGHTERS BROUGHT CURSE FOR GENERATIONS

vs. 37,38 “The older daughter had a son, and she named him Moab ; he is the father of the Moabites of today. The younger daughter also had a son, and she named him Ben-Ammi ; he is the father of the Ammonites of today.”

SHAMELESSNESS SEEN IN THEIR NAMES

MOAB = “from father” / BEN-AMMI = “son of my people”

2 Nations > Moab and Ammon > Thorn in Israel’s Side for Centuries

CAN we CLIMB out of Dismal PIT? Cast out Sodom and get a Savior on Inside?

Amazing Grace of God > Fullness of Time > Out of Sodom came a Savior

GODLESS MOABITES > Daughter named Ruth > Became Follower of True God
A Great, Great Grandmother of Messiah

“A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob...Boaz the father of Obed, *whose mother was Ruth*, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David...This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about” Matthew 1.1-18

2. Savior on the Inside

a. Conversion Spiritual Rebirth > Becoming a New Person in Christ

Messiah came to Planet Earth with Clearly Defined Mission:

“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners*”
1 Timothy 1.15

Lot and Daughters > Were they Converted? Did they get to Heaven?
Only 2 People DEFINITE KNOWLEDGE if you KNOW GOD > You and God

Most Important Question > Do you Know God? 2 Corinthians 5.17
 “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

Written 2000 years after Sodom was destroyed to Christians in Corinth
 Corinthian Christians > OXYMORON > “Corinthian” slang for Sexual Deviant

“Coming to God” – NOT a Spatial Reference, but Spiritual Relationship
 Not a Question of WHERE you are, but WHO YOU ARE

Christ reached into Corinth > Transformed Gross Sinners to Godly Saints

“the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ--their Lord and ours”
 1 Corinthians 1.2

Loving Arm of God can Reach into Ancient Corinth or Sodom > Modern Almaty

“those who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ” can live Anywhere
 Sodom – Corinth – Honolulu – Almaty – London – Buenos Aires – Tokyo – Lagos

Jesus prayed for His Followers, describing them –
 v. 11 “they are still *in the world*” v. 14 “they are *not of the world*” John 17

Conversion > NOT moving OUT of Evil City > HOLY GOD moving INTO You

“While you are out of Christ, you are in Sodom...Sodom is the place of your nativity, and the place where you have spent your lives...Remember Lot’s wife!... Remember what became of her.”
 Jonathan Edwards

Christian Faith > Different Operating Principle than Islam

Muslim Friend told me this Week > Struggle between Formal and Folk Islam
 Formal Islam > Arabic Language > Semitic Culture > Meticulous Laws & Rituals
 “NOT EASY OR INTERESTING TO MOST KAZAKH PEOPLE” he said.

Christian Dynamic not Law and Ritual > Holy Spirit
 Breathes New Life and Holiness into All Cultures

Bible > For all Languages God Created > God Speaks All Languages

SPIRIT AND WORD > work together > Miracle of CONVERSION

“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, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”
Titus 3.5-7

b. Calling God interested in what you do between Conversion and Heaven

Lot’s GRADUAL SLIDE into Sodom // Our Gradual Slide into UNBELIEF

MISS A DAY IN PRAYER AND BIBLE READING "no big deal, I'm busy"
MISS WEEK OF TIME W/ GOD "God knows some weeks busy than others"

SOON BIBLE READING AND PRAYER BECOME THING OF THE PAST
COME TO CHURCH ONCE A MONTH INSTEAD OF ONCE A WEEK

Jesus said one more thing about His Followers in prayer:

v. 11 “they are still *in the world*” v. 14 “they are *not of the world*”
v. 18 “I have sent them *into the world*” John 17

GOD WITH JOSEPH IN PHARAOH'S COURT / WITH DANIEL IN BABYLON

Question of WHY Lot moved into Sodom – What is your PURPOSE for Living

Westminster Shorter Catechism

1. Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

“What was Lot’s problem? Was it that the people of God can never live in cities? Can they never have positions of leadership in the secular world? No, not at all!... Lot had gone into Sodom with wrong motives – to benefit from its ungodly way of life, not to convert it. He may have considered himself to be a missionary, but he was more of a ‘missionee’... There is a great difference between taking the gospel into a wicked place and entering into to wicked aspects of its life” James Boice

ONLY Legitimate Reason for Lot in Sodom > Bring the Blessing of Abraham

c. Community 10 Righteous People were Need to Save Sodom

3 Righteous Ones > Lot & His Daughters > Cavorting in Cave > NOT ENOUGH

Jesus' Prayer for His Followers > "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."
John 17.23

Saints in Corinth Gathered by God into a BODY > a Church of Jesus Christ
Community > Demonstrates its Conversion > Lives out its Calling > HOLY

Corinthians for Christ > Sodomites with a Savior

"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. *And that is what some of you were.* But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." 1 Corinthians 6.9-11

Community Marked by its Christ-Likeness > Island of Light in Dark Sea of Sin

Three Sundays > Calling you "Look at Sodom" > Tired, Depressed, Disgusted

Call you to LOOK at CALVARY > Hill outside Jerusalem > Lord Jesus Crucified

Also > PLACE of JUDGMENT > Deadly Wrath of God > ALSO MERCY

Death Jesus Died not for His Own Sins > HAD NONE > Sins of His People
From Every Tribe, Nation, People, and Language

Unworthy People > Sinful People > Chosen People > Is that YOU?

One Sure Indication > Do you want Sodom inside you? Or a Savior?

Do you Live for Your Pleasure? Or Live for His Pleasure?

God invites you to be Made New > Receive His Salvation > Cleansed from Sin

Paul's Words about Converted Corinthians, true for you...

"you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."
1 Corinthians 6.11