

Genesis 12-19

Lot the Leader

1. The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. 2. "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. 3. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." 4. So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. 5. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

WHAT DOES FAITH HAVE TO DO WITH PRACTICAL DAILY PROBLEMS?

DIFFERENCE does BEING A BELIEVER in GOD MAKE in BUSINESS?

ABRAM - LIVED A LIFE OF FAITH / DID NOT LIVE IN FANTASY WORLD

2 MEN - ENCOUNTER PROBLEM - RESOLVED - LASTING IMPLICATIONS

PROBLEM OF FAMILY ARGUMENT / ECONOMIC CONFLICT / Lot & Abram

1. Sticky Situation

a. Property Problems PROBLEM of MATERIALISM - what to do w/ our stuff?!

v. 6 "the land could not support the (LARGE HERDS OF BOTH A & L)...for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together.

PROBLEMS OF THIS WORLD - land, houses, cars, jobs, economy

NOT SHORTAGE OF LAND in WORLD > PROBLEM SURPLUS OF GREED

DANGER: "*the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil*" 1 Timothy 6:10

b. Feuding Families > PROBLEM EXPANDS TO THEIR HERDSMEN

v. 7 "quarreling arose between Abram's herdsmen and the herdsmen of Lot"

PROBLEMS got Best of THEM INSTEAD of GETTING BEST OF PROBLEMS

BETTER TO DEAL with PROBLEM WHEN IT BEGINS - WAITED TOO LONG

Jesus: "Settle matters quickly with your adversary" Matthew 5:25

Apostle Paul: "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold." Ephesians 4:26,27

c. Nosy Neighbors EVEN Without Cable TV or Internet > Bad News Travels Fast
v. 7b "Canaanites & Perizzites were also living in the land"

DID NOT GO DOWN TO EGYPT & GET RICH - SUFFERED THRU FAMINE

WONDERED: Who are these OUTSIDERS? Came HERE to Change Everything?

d. Spiritual Standing MOST IMPORTANT SITUATION - THEIR HEARTS

v. 5 "Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks & herds & tents"

BOTH LOT & ABE WENT DOWN TO EGYPT / CAME UP FROM EGYPT

BOTH HAD SAME EXPERIENCES BUT NOT THE SAME EFFECT

SAME MESSAGE IN CHURCH / NOT SAME MEANING / LIFE IMPACT

SITTING IN PEW NEXT TO SOMEONE / EVEN RELATIVE

HAVE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT REACTION / SPIRITUAL CONDITION

Man Credited w/ Ending England's Participation in Slave Trade: Wm. Wilberforce
Career Parliamentarian > Devoted Christian > Pastor was Richard Cecil
Wilberforce great FRIEND > William Pitt, Prime Minister of England, not Believer
Wilberforce often invited Pitt to come to Church and hear great messages of Cecil
Pitt always TOO BUSY > Finally one Sunday he went to church with Wilberforce
Pastor Cecil > Eloquent, Powerful, Christ-exalting > Wilberforce was Thrilled
PITT > as they walked home: "Wilberforce, I do not have the slightest idea what
that man was talking about"

GOSPEL PREACHERS: "are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are
being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to
the other, the fragrance of life." 2 Corinthians 2:15,16

BOTH Abram & Lot WEALTHY: DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIP TO WEALTH

ABE IT WAS A TRIAL OF FAITH / LOT IT WAS TEMPTATION TO FALL

GET BEST OF SITUATION / OR LET SITUATION GET THE BEST OF YOU
James 1:12-15 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me."

SAME EVENT // ONLY 2 REACTIONS MOVE FORWARD OR BACKWARD

ABRAHAM POSSESSED HIS FLOCKS - LOT'S FLOCKS POSSESSED HIM

SEE THE 2 MEN AND SEE WHAT SHAPED THEIR DECISIONS

2. Selfish Longing

a. Weak Devotions HEART OF PROBLEM IS PROBLEM OF THE HEART

BOTH ABE AND LOT HAD FLOCKS, HERDS, SERVANTS, TENTS

ABRAHAM HAD SOMETHING LOT DID NOT HAVE - AN ALTAR

NOTHING TO IN ANY WAY SUGGEST IN THIS PASSAGE THAT
LOT HAD PRAYER LIFE, QUIET TIME of WAITING ON GOD, WORSHIP
LOT JUST ALONG FOR THE RIDE - ABRAHAM'S NEPHEW, HARAN'S SON
WHEN LIFE GOT TOUGH IN CANAAN, WENT w/ UNCLE > EAT in EGYPT

HE GOT RICH IN THE PROCESS - NOTHING TO FEEL BAD ABOUT
HE WAS LUCKY - IN RIGHT PLACE AT RIGHT TIME - GOOD FOR HIM

LOT WAS GOOD AT GUARDING HIS FLOCKS BUT NOT HIS HEART

“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” Proverbs 4:23

b. Worldly Desires GREATEST JOY IN THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD

v. 10 “Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)”

INSTEAD OF ASKING "is this a good place to raise CHILDREN?"

LOT ASKED "is this a good place to raise CATTLE?"

2 REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE JORDAN VALLEY

RELIGIOUS REASON - it was like the Garden of Eden

REAL REASON - it was like the Gardens of Egypt

NO DISCERNMENT > COULDN'T TELL DIFFERENCE btwn EGYPT & EDEN

Apostle John: “Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him”
1 John 2.15-17

c. Wrong Decisions LAND ITSELF WAS GOOD / MOTIVES WERE BAD

v. 11 “So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company”

MADE THE WRONG CHOICE / COMPANY WITH THE WRONG PEOPLE

SOMEONE GETS A BETTER JOB / NOT BAD / LEAVES A GOOD CHURCH

2 QUESTIONS A SOUL MUST ANSWER

1) Heaven or Hell? - Lot chose heaven, left Ur w/ Uncle Abram

2) Heaven or Earth? - Lot chose earth, moved to Sodom

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death” Prov 14.12

d. Wicked Drifting IT ALL BEGAN WITH A LUSTFUL LOOK

v. 10 “Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered”
Eagerly Calculated > JUST THINK OF ALL THE HERDS IT CAN SUSTAIN!

MORE THAN JUST A PASSING GLANCE / LOOK OF LUSTFUL LONGING
KIND OF LOOK THAT SACRIFICES YOUR SOUL / GODLESS GAZE

Apostle John continues: “For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.”
1 John 2.16

DID LOT’S WIFE LEARN THAT LONGING GAZE FROM HER HUSBAND?

As she turned back and stared at the Home Sweet Home in Sodom?

Surely > MUCH MORE *CONVENIENT* TO LIVE IN CITY - NEAR OTHERS

v. 12 “Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom.”

v. 13 MOSES adds little EDITORIAL DETAIL: “Now the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.”

James describes this drift: “each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”
James 1.14,15

CHRISTIAN PARENTS WONDERED WHAT HAPPENED to CHILDREN
James BOICE "This family came to church, but it was perfunctory attendance. Their hearts were not in it. Their interest in money and sophisticated friends led them to associate with unbelievers more than believers. Most of their income went to maintain their lifestyle. Additional funds went to the support of their daughters, whom they had placed in an academically demanding, but worldly, private school. Understandably, the daughters rejected Christianity. The father said, "What has happened to our girls?" The mother responded, "What do you expect when you pitch your tent near Sodom?"

“Blessed is the man (or woman) who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.”
Psalm 1.1

PICTURE OF INCREASING INVOLVEMENT WITH WICKEDNESS

WALK DOWN its PATH - STAND in DOORWAY - SIT IN ITS EASY CHAIR

Genesis 14:12 “They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom.”

LOT HAD SUNK DEEPER INTO SIN - NOW LIVING IN SODOM
 WAS NOT ENOUGH TO PITCH HIS TENTS NEAR SODOM - HAD TO GO IN
 ABRAM AND HIS TRAINED MEN STAGED A DARING RAID & RETURNED

JOHN PHILLIPS - EVEN AFTER THE RESCUE BY HIS UNCLE
 "Sodom a treacherous quicksand for the soul, soon sucked Lot in again. Nor could all of Abram's noble efforts free him from the fatal fascination of that vile place. For though Abram did all a fellow believer could to rescue his brother, Lot went right back into the mire. Perhaps he was driven there by his nagging wife. Perhaps it was the worldly needs of his children that snared him. Perhaps it was simply the desire to make more money. Perhaps the poor fellow thought he could still be an influence for God. We are not told. All we know is the deluded man went back."

Abe // FOLLOWS CHRIST - HELP OTHERS AT RISK OF OWN LIFE > LOT

LOT HAD LITTLE IMPACT IN SODOM FOR GOD

Genesis 18:32 AS ABRAHAM INTERCEDED FOR GOD TO SPARE THE CITY
 GOD SAID "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."

BUT THERE WERE NOT EVEN TEN RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE

Genesis 19:1 “two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening” TO USHER IN THE
 JUDGMENT OF GOD “Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city”

ANCIENT WORLD “sitting in gateway” = POLITICAL & BUSINESS LEADER

19. 7 LIVED AS ELDER IN SODOM "No, *my friends*. Don't do this wicked thing.

CAN CHRISTIANS HAVE LEADERSHIP ROLES IN SECULAR WORLD?

NOT ENVIRONMENT BUT SPIRITUAL ATTITUDE

GOD WITH JOSEPH IN PHARAOH'S COURT / WITH DANIEL IN BABYLON
 DANIEL ORDERED NOT to PRAY/ OPEN WINDOWS TO BE SEEN BY ALL

1) LOT WENT INTO SODOM WITH WRONG MOTIVES

to benefit from its ungodly way of life - not reach them for God

2) SODOM WAS A WICKED CITY

like moving into a brothel / or running a business for the mob

JAMES BOICE "There is a great difference between taking the gospel into a wicked place and entering into to wicked aspects of its life"

HE WAS LEADER IN SODOM BUT MADE NO IMPACT FOR THE SAVIOR
 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
 WORD TITHING MAKES YOU LAUGH NOT MAKES YOU OBEY

19.2 1st TIME BIBLE MENTIONS "House - w/ ROOF & LOCKABLE DOOR"
 AND STREETS AND A CITY SQUARE

SODOM DESCRIBED BY THE LORD THRU PROPHET EZEKIEL
 Ezekiel 16:49 "Sodom...arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy.

EVEN JESUS DESCRIBED THEIR MATERIAL BLESSINGS
 Luke 17:28 "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building.

Cowardly TERRIBLE FATHER/DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIPS!!

19.8 Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don't do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof."

Comical HE LOST ALL INTEGRITY- THEY THOUGHT HE WAS JOKING

19.14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters. He said, "Hurry and get out of this place, because the LORD is about to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.

HIS MESSAGE DID NOT HAVE RING OF INTEGRITY OR AUTHORITY

NEVER HAD A SERIOUS TALK WITH THEM ABOUT GOD / WHY NOW?

OWN Son-in Laws LAUGHED at his GOD - REFUSED TO FLEE JUDGMENT

19. 26 "Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt."

WAS NOT A LITTLE LOOK / IT WAS A LONGING LUST / DEADLY GAWK

LOT'S FAMILY – Wife, Future Sons in Law – SHOULD HAVE BEEN SAVED

NOT SAVED BY NEARNESS TO GOD > Proximity to God is not a Pardon

DEATH HAPPENS SOONER AND FASTER THAN ANYONE IMAGINES

FOR MOST PEOPLE - EVEN OLD PEOPLE - DEATH COMES TOO SOON

WE KNOW PEOPLE DIE - SEEN DEATH - BUT WE WILL NOT EVER DIE!!

WIFE LOOKED WITH SUCH LONGING SHE TURNED TO PILLAR

19. 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

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

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

19. 30 “Lot and his two daughters lived in a cave”

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

19. 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

From Man to Beast Last Reference to Lot in Genesis >

19. 36 “both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father”

SINS OF LOT AND DAUGHTERS BROUGHT CURSE FOR GENERATIONS

19. 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

ABE - FATHER OF ALL THOSE SAVED BY FAITH IN JUSTIFICATION

LOT - FATHER OF ALL THOSE SAVED THRU FLAMES OF JUDGMENT

if Lot got to heaven – he arrived covered with soot and smoke

ETERNAL IMPLICATIONS > Simple, Little Business Decision

3. Selfless Look

ABRAHAM

friend of God

angels came to Abe's tent

Abe was pilgrim in world

Abe met with God in daylight

Abe's offered prepared meal

Abe would offer Son as sacrifice

God gave Abe message - Blessing

Faith of Abe is timeless testimony

LOT

friend of the world

angels came to Lot's house

Lot was settled in Sin City

Lot met angels in shadows

Lot offered unleavened bread

Lot offered daughters for sex

Lot heard words of Cursing

Lot's failures immortalized

a. Contrite > ABE IS HUMBLLED UNDER GOD'S MIGHTY HAND

v. 3 “ABRAHAM RETURNED to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier {4} and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD”

LIKE PRODIGAL SON RETURNING HOME after BITTER LESSONS

CAME BACK RICH - RICHES WERE REMINDER OF HIS FAILURE

// RING, SHOES, ROBE REMINDERS OF FORGIVENESS OF HIS FATHER

ABE HAD BEEN TOLD TO LEAVE ALL BEHIND - TOOK LOT ALONG

LOT BECOMES A SOURCE OF MANY PROBLEMS

PERHAPS Abe thought GREAT NATION - THROUGH HIS NEPHEW

THOUGH THERE IS FORGIVENESS FOR SIN - CONSEQUENCES REMAIN

Timeless DIVINE PRESCRIPTION “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

ABRAM’S SIN WAS CONFESSED TO GOD AND FORSAKEN

LIVED IN GRACE “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.” Colossians 3:1-3

b. Consoles HAVING PEACE WITH GOD HE MAKES PEACE WITH MAN

v. 8 “Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine”

ABE “Make(s) every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit thru the bond of peace”
Ephesians 4.3

JESUS: “Blessed are the peacemakers, they will be called sons of God” Matt 5.9

c. Challenges v. 8 "for we are brothers" > HUMBLE > could have said 'Father'
NO STINKING LIVESTOCK > DISRUPT THEIR SWEET FELLOWSHIP

We must DISAGREE WITHOUT BEING DISAGREEABLE

CHURCHES SPLIT BY BAD PERSONALITIES NOT BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

STRONG CHRISTIANS in CORINTH ATE MEAT OFFERED to PAGAN IDOLS

"Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak... So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ." 1 Corinthians 8:9-12

TO DIVIDE THE BODY IS TO DESTROY OURSELVES

"there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!"...God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." 1 Corinth 12:20-26

d. Confident FULL FAITH IN GOD'S PROMISE OF THE LAND

v. 9 "Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

REFLECTS BOTH HIS HUMILITY AND HIS BOLDNESS

CONFIDENCE IN THE PROMISE OF GOD - IT WAS ALL HIS ANYWAY
IF LOT WANTS TO STAY ON ABRAHAM'S LAND AWHILE HE COULD

"Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world"
Romans 4.13

ETERNAL DEED IS ALREADY THE POSSESSION OF CHILDREN OF ABE

"since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe"
Hebrews 12:28

e. Confirmation GOD SAYS, "You done good Abram!"

WANT to have CONFIDENCE OF YOUR FAITH / SPIRITUAL ASSURANCE??

v. 14 The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. {15} All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. {16} I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. {17} Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

MUST WALK THRU THE LAND - RECEIVE THE PROMISE STEP BY STEP
PROGRESSIVE HARVEST / WORK FOR IT

Prophet Amos: "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes." 9.13

f. Consecration DIFFERENT LOOK THAN LOT v. 14 "Lift up your eyes"

LOOK OF EXPECTANT FAITH - EAGER OBEDIENCE - GOD WILL DO IT

LORD JESUS: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." Mathew 5.8

v. 18 "So Abram moved his tents and went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the LORD"

CALL to FOLLOW in FAITH OF ABRAHAM - LIFT UP OUR EYES IN FAITH

Prophet Isaiah "Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? ... Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing... Lift up your eyes to the heavens... my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail."
40.26, 51.6

LIFT UP YOUR EYES WITH THE WRITER TO THE HEBREWS: 12.2-3
Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith"

SOME DAY SOON “You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Mark 14.62

From Man to Beast Last Reference to Lot in Genesis >

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

They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.” AMEN! AMEN!! John 4:35-36