

# LOT, SODOM, AND HIS FAMILY

Genesis 13:8-13; 19:1-26; 30-32; 36-38

## SCRIPTURE READING

*<sup>13:8</sup> Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. <sup>9</sup> Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left." <sup>10</sup> And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) <sup>11</sup> So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. <sup>12</sup> Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. <sup>13</sup> Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.*

God shows up and communes with Abraham.

God tells Abraham how he sees the wickedness of these two cities.

God tells Abraham how he will destroy them.

God sends two angels towards Sodom and Gomorrah.

God intends to give deserved justice to some who are unrighteous.

God intends to give undeserved mercy to some others who are unrighteous.

*<sup>19:1</sup> The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth <sup>2</sup> and said, "My lords, please turn aside to your servant's house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way." They said, "No; we will spend the night in the town square."<sup>3</sup> But he pressed them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house. And he made them a feast and baked unleavened bread, and they ate. <sup>4</sup> But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house. <sup>5</sup> And they called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them." <sup>6</sup> Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him, <sup>7</sup> and said, "I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly. <sup>8</sup> Behold, I have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof." <sup>9</sup> But they said, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them." Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and drew near to break the door down. <sup>10</sup> But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them and shut the door. <sup>11</sup> And they struck with blindness the men who were at the entrance of the house, both small and great, so that they wore themselves out groping for the door. <sup>12</sup> Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place. <sup>13</sup> For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it." <sup>14</sup> So Lot went out and said to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, "Up! Get out of this place, for*

the LORD is about to destroy the city." But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting. <sup>15</sup> As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city." <sup>16</sup> But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. <sup>17</sup> And as they brought them out, one said, "Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away." <sup>18</sup> And Lot said to them, "Oh, no, my lords. <sup>19</sup> Behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me and I die. <sup>20</sup> Behold, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one?—and my life will be saved!" <sup>21</sup> He said to him, "Behold, I grant you this favor also, that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. <sup>22</sup> Escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. <sup>23</sup> The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. <sup>24</sup> Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven. <sup>25</sup> And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. <sup>26</sup> But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt ...

<sup>19:30</sup> Now Lot went up out of Zoar and lived in the hills with his two daughters, for he was afraid to live in Zoar. So he lived in a cave with his two daughters. <sup>31</sup> And the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of all the earth. <sup>32</sup> Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father." ....

<sup>19:36</sup> Thus both the daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father. <sup>37</sup> The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to this day. <sup>38</sup> The younger also bore a son and called his name Ben-ammi. He is the father of the Ammonites to this day.

## I. WE HAVE A FATHER WHO LOVES US A LOT AND TELLS US WHAT WE OUGHT

### LOT WAS BLESSED

Lot was adopted by Abraham

Lot was living with Abraham

Lot was relationally enriched – he was given a wife and children

Lot was materially enriched – he was one with much wealth, flocks, tents, herds, possessions, and many workers<sup>1</sup>

### LOT WAS GIVEN A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

Lot was to worship God with all his heart mind, soul, and strength

Lot was to make disciples of his family

Lot was to make disciples of his servants

Lot was to make disciples of his neighbors

Lot was to be salt and light; he was to be one who changed his culture and not one changed by his culture

Lot was to be a leader

## **LOT WAS SPIRITUALLY ENRICHED**

He was circumcised along with Abraham

He was led in worship by Abraham

He was educated in God's good ways

## **WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED**

God needed nothing; he enjoyed perfect bliss.

God created the world.

God created man and woman in his image.

God created man and woman to enjoy and glorify him.

God has met our needs.

God has placed us in a place of great abundance; we dwell in the greatest country on planet earth.

## **WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY**

God has given us incredible opportunities and responsibilities to serve him as his disciples, ambassadors, prophets, or priests.

## **WE HAVE BEEN SPIRITUALLY ENRICHED**

God has allowed us to receive his rules, principles, ordinances, regulations, precepts, will, or Law.

He has told us what is right.

He has told us what is best.

He has told us what is pure.

He has told us what is honorable.

He has told us what is holy.

He has told us what is best for family.

He has told us what is best for community.

He has told us the good and pleasing way.

He has told us the way to glorify and enjoy him.

He has told us the way to avoid much unnecessary pain.

His Law and his ways flow from his grace.

Illustration: Owners manual

Illustration: Do not eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

## II. WE HAVE A FATHER WHOSE HATRED FOR SIN IS HOT

### GOD HATES SIN

He hates the sin of slavery

He hates the sin of abuse

He hates the sin of trafficking

He hates the sin of genocide

He hates the sin of murder

He hates the sin of idolatry

He hates the sin of pride

He hates the sin of lying

He hates the sin of greed

He hates the sin of stealing

He hates the sin of lust

He hates the sin of not loving him with all one's heart, soul, mind, and strength, all the time

### GOD HARMS SINNERS

*Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

He hates sin so much that he removes his restraining hand

He hates sin so much that he turns people over to depravity.

He hates sin so much that he allows people to experience the consequences of their folly.

## GOD DAMNS SINNERS

*Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

He hates sin so much that he promises the soul that sins will die and be excommunicated from him

He hates sin so much that he floods the earth.

He hates sin so much that he confuses, scatters, and separates family members one from another. (Babel)

He hates sin so much that he pours down fire and brimstone from heaven.

He hates sin so much that he plagues and drowns.

He hates sin so much that he opens the earth and swallows alive.

He hates sin so much that he sends forth venomous serpents to strike and poison.

He hates sin so much that he pulls down walls upon people's heads. (Jericho)

He hates sin so much that he uses pagan nations to attack and annihilate.

He hates sin so much that he pours out his holy fury upon one carrying sin being affixed to a Roman cross.

He hates sin so much that he creates the Lake of Fire for the devil, his demons, and his followers.

## TRANSITION

He hates the sin of Lucifer and his demons.

He hates the sin of Cain.

He hates the sin of those in Sodom and Gomorrah.

He hates the sin of Lot's daughters.

He hates the sin of Lot's wife.

He hates the sin of Lot.

## III. WE HAVE A FATHER WHO KNOWS WE ARE A LOT LIKE LOT.

### LOT HAD A PROBLEM

There was too little land.

There was too much God-given wealth.

There was too much greed.

There was too much turmoil.

There was too much division as the servants of Lot were consistently bickering with the servants of Uncle Abraham.

There was too much danger as Canannites and Perizzites living in the land waiting to plunder a divided people.

## LOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY

*Genesis 13:8–9 Then Abram said to Lot, “Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen.”<sup>9</sup> Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left.”*

Abraham trusted God.

Abraham loved God.

Abraham loved Lot and his family.

Abraham was willing to be inconvenienced and impoverished out of love.

Abraham offered half the land to his nephew and allowed him to choose that which he deemed best.

## LOT HAD A CHOICE TO MAKE, AND A FAMILY TO LEAD

Lot had a leadership opportunity before him

Would he consult the Lord?

Would he get together with Abraham and consult the Lord?

Would he be consumed with figuring out a way to fix the issue between his herdsmen and those of Abraham?

Would he do whatever he could to stay next to the “Blessed Abraham” – the covenantal patriarch and prophet?

Would he make decisions based upon prosperity, preference, pleasure, prestige, people, prosperity, or promotion?

Would he lead in a way that encouraged the faithful worship of his wife, children, sons-in-law, and grandchildren?

## LOT MADE HIS LEADERSHIP DECISION JUST LIKE ANYONE ELSE WOULD

*Genesis 13:10 And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)*

Where is the greenest pasture?

Where is the land most level and fertile?

Where is farming most easy?

Where can I make hay while the sun shines?

Where is the most commerce?

Where is the fun and excitement?

He made decisions and led based upon prosperity, preference, pleasure, prestige, people, prosperity, or promotion.

## LOT MOVED HIS FAMILY AWAY FROM THE COVENANT LEADERSHIP OF ABRAHAM.

*Genesis 13:11 So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other.*

Lot moved his family away from the Father of the Faith.

Lot moved his family away from the covenantal leader.

Lot moved his family away from the one who received revelations.

Lot moved his family away from the ordained worship leader of the family.

Lot moved his family away from the one who saw Jesus's day and understood Jesus' Gospel.

Lot moved his family away from the graced and blessed leader who was promised God's land, people, seed, and blessing.

## LOT MOVED HIS FAMILY CLOSER TO SODOM.

*Genesis 13:12-13 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. <sup>13</sup> Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.*

Lot moved his family closer to a city where ten righteous individuals could not be found.

Lot moved his family closer to the land of men who were wicked (13:13)

Lot moved his family closer to the land of men who were great sinners (13:13)

Lot moved his family closer to the land of men who were against the Lord (13:13)

Lot moved his family closer to a city that delighted in sin and was unashamedly wicked.

Lot moved his family closer to a city that was a cesspool of iniquity.

Lot moved his family closer to the land that God was going to destroy (13:10)

Lot moved his family closer to a city filled with homosexual rapists eager to violate first time visitors to their community.<sup>2</sup>

Lot moved his family closer to a city so depraved they would do their heinous deeds in the open.

Lot moved his family closer to a city so depraved that, even when blinded, they would continue their trek beating on the door

Lot moved his family closer to a city that, for the first time in human history, was personally targeted by God for annihilation.

Woodstock, Pride Week, Vegas, Bourbon Street, Spring Break, Amsterdam – kindergarten compared to Sodom and Gomorrah.

## CAN I SAY THAT THIS FIRST DECISION OF LOT WAS SINFUL?

I don't think I can demand this interpretation from you.

I do think we can agree it was one huge step in the wrong direction.

I do think we can agree to see it as the beginning of a trend as he drifted further from Abraham and nearer to the chaos of sin

I do think we can agree that Lot would look back at this decision and wish that he had chosen a different path.

## LOT PLACED HIS FAMILY IN THE MIDST OF A PEOPLE WHO DELIGHTED IN SIN

*Genesis 19:1a The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom ...*

At first, Lot kept his distance; he did not move his family right into the city of Sodom.

He set his family's tent so that the first thing they saw in the morning when arising was Sodom ... last thing going to bed.

Lot's desire to be connected to the town grew and grew

Somewhere in time, Lot moved his family into the city that was opposed to God.

Sodom became the hometown of Lot and his family.

Lot became a leader of the city; according to Genesis 19:1, Lot was an elder sitting in the city gate.

## LOT ENCOURAGED HIS CHILDREN TO LOVE MEN OF THE CITY OPPOSED TO GOD.

His daughters had men to whom they had become engaged. (19:14)

## LOT WAS LED/INFLUENCED BY THE CITY; HE WAS NOT ONE WHO LED/INFLUENCED THE CITY

Lot was not surprised by the corrupt conduct of his neighbors.

Lot kept with his wife and daughter in this cesspool.

Lot begged his new guests not sleep outside.

Lot was correct in his concern and prediction; the men of the city came after his divine guests.

Lot showed his foolishness by seeking to defend the mighty angels of God, "No my friends. Do not this wicked thing."

Lot was proven to be no missionary; he was accepted until he spoke out against evil. The people were surprised at his words.

*Genesis 19:9 But they said, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them." ...*

Lot does the unthinkable; he was the worst father possible; he was the worst leader ever.



Lot offered his daughters to the raving lunatics banging on his door.

Abusive men were at the door.

An abusive father stood in the door.

Sin will take you farther than you want to go; keep you longer than you want to stay; and charge you more than you want to pay.

## LOT HAD TO BE DRAGGED OUT OF THE CITY.

*Genesis 19:10-16 But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them and shut the door. <sup>11</sup> And they struck with blindness the men who were at the entrance of the house, both small and great, so that they wore themselves out groping for the door. <sup>12</sup> Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place. <sup>13</sup> For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it." <sup>14</sup> So Lot went out and said to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, "Up! Get out of this place, for the LORD is about to destroy the city." But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting. <sup>15</sup> As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city." <sup>16</sup> But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.*

The angels save Lot from the men.

The angels save Lot's daughters from Lot and the men.

The angels blind the Sodomites.

The angels proclaim God's mercy in the face of judgment.

The angels proclaim God's kindness to anyone who leads.

Lot believed.

Lot evangelized.

Lot lingered.

Lot had become one with the city.

Lot had to be seized and brought out.

## LOT ARGUED AND SOUGHT TO NEGOTIATE WITH GOD.

*Genesis 19:17-23 And as they brought them out, one said, "Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away." <sup>18</sup> And Lot said to them, "Oh, no, my lords. <sup>19</sup> Behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me and I die. <sup>20</sup> Behold, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one?—and my life will be saved!" <sup>21</sup> He said to him, "Behold, I grant you this favor also, that I will not*

*overthrow the city of which you have spoken. <sup>22</sup> Escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. <sup>23</sup> The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar.*

The angels tell Lot to flee to the mountains.

James Boice believes the "mountains" the Angels were referring to were the mountains of Mamre, the place where Abraham was, the place God had promised to bless his people with.

Lot trusts not his affectionate Father.

Lot argues and disagrees.

Lot desires the pleasures of the city

Lot knows better than God what he needs.

## LOT'S WIFE LOVED THE CITY OF SIN

Lot and his family were told not to stop

Lot and his family were told not to look back

Lot's wife had a heart attached to the city

Lot's wife turned and looked

Lot's wife became a pillar of salt

## LOT'S DAUGHTERS BECAME ABUSIVE, LIKE THEIR NEIGHBORS, LIKE THEIR FATHER

*Genesis 19:30-36 Now Lot went up out of Zoar and lived in the hills with his two daughters, for he was afraid to live in Zoar. So he lived in a cave with his two daughters ... <sup>36</sup> Thus both the daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father.*

## LOT PAID THE PRICE

He lost his prosperity,

He lost his pleasure

He lost his people

He lost his promotion.

He lost his prestige

Lot's beginning was an optimistic one.

Lot's ending appears to be one of depression and pessimism.

Lot began as an Abrahamic covenant community member Lot ended as a community citizen in a most depraved city.

Lot began with little girls listening to Uncle Abraham.

Lot ended with his little girls committing fornication with dad.

Lot began as a farmer with great flocks.

Lot ended with all his flocks consumed.

Lot began as a farmer with great land.

Lot ended as a man with no land or home, living in a cave.

Lot began as a man with numerous servants.

Lot ended with no one to call him master.

I think Lot looked back and wished he had made numerous different choices and decisions.

I do think Lot may have been sitting in his cave one evening, asking himself, "How did I get myself in this condition?"

As an individual, have you ever asked the question, "How did I get myself in this place?"

You did not plan on going too far in a dating relationship

You did not plan on accruing an incredible amount of debt

You did not plan on becoming addicted to pornography

You did not plan on becoming enslaved to medicine, drugs, alcohol, or tobacco

You did not plan on your Bible-carrying, Sunday-school-attending, Jesus-loves-me-singing, child becoming a skeptical agnostic

You did not plan on your marriage transitioning from wedded bliss to hell on earth

You did not plan on walking down the aisle with one person and waking up with another

How does this happen?

Doubt the love of God

Doubt the words of God

Find substitute counsel

Ignore the signs

Play with sin

Learn not from others

Believe we are the exception

One small decision after another

We are not followers

We lead not ourselves well.

We lead not our spouses well.

We lead not our children well.

We lead not our culture well.

Individuals, Families, Churches as well

## IV. WE HAVE A FATHER WHO LOVES US A LOT.

### LOT WAS FOREKNOWN

God saw Lot's sin.

God saw Lot's looming damnation.

### LOT WAS FORELOVED

Lot was elect

Lot was loved

### LOT WAS NOT FORSAKEN

Lot was unfaithful

God was faithful

*Genesis 19:27-29 And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD.<sup>28</sup> And he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace.<sup>29</sup> So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.*

### LOT WAS MERCIFULLY AND FORCEFULLY SAVED

*Genesis 19:16 But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city*

God sent Lot a saving mediator.

God saw a reluctant object of grace.

God dragged Lot from his sin.

God finishes what He purposes

### LOT WAS DECLARED RIGHTEOUS

*2 Peter 2:7-9 And if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed [tormented, oppressed, worn down - καταπονούμενον] by the sensual conduct of the wicked<sup>8</sup> (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);<sup>9</sup> then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,*

## LOT WAS USED FOR GOD'S GOOD PURPOSES

Their family sin, that was not good, was used for good

*Genesis 19:37–38    The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to this day. <sup>38</sup>  
The younger also bore a son and called his name Ben-ammi. He is the father of the Ammonites to this day.*

Who were Lot's descendants?

Ammonites

Moabites

Ruth

David

Jesus was from the line and lineage of Lot, his daughters, the Moabites, and Ruth. (Matt. 1:5)

Give them the Gospel and its benefits

He uses us and our sin. God used Lot's sinful past in a glorious manner.

## V. WE HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF WORSHIPING AS WE OUGHT.

### WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPENT AND REST IN HIM ... AGAIN

Let us humbly consider.

Let us humbly confess our sins, repent, and run to Christ and his Gospel

Let us do what Adam and Eve did

Let us do what Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob did

Let us do what Moses and Israel did

Let us do what David and Bathsheba did

Let us do what Peter and the Disciples did

Let us do what Paul and many Pharisees did

*Illustration of a Repenting Father*

Unbeliever ... repent and join the family

Believer ... repent

## WE GET TO LEARN FROM THE GOOD, GOOD, FATHER

We get to go to the Holy Word.

We get to be taught by the Holy Counselor.

We get to be taught by teachers, brothers, friends, and shepherds.

Put the world in front of your eyes ... that is where you will head.

Too much worldly media ... too much TV ... too many magazines ... too many movies ... too much sin

Too much consumerism ... too much materialism ... too much sin

Too many ungodly counselors and friends ... too much sin.

*Psalm 1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; <sup>2</sup> but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. <sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; <sup>6</sup> for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.*

WE GET TO OBEY AND HONOR THE FATHER

WE GET TO HATE SATAN AND SIN

WE GET TO OBEY, LOVE, AND BLESS OUR SPOUSES

WE GET TO LOOK FOR THE LITTLE FOXES

WE GET TO OBEY, LOVE, AND BLESS OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

WE GET TO LOOK FOR THE SLIPPERY SLOPE

WE GET TO TRUST IN THE GOD OF THE ABRAHAMIC, FAMILIAL COVENANT

WILL WE GROOM CHILDREN WHO ARE TROPHIES OF GOD'S GRACE AND CHARACTER?

WE GET TO OBEY, LOVE, AND BLESS OUR CHURCH FAMILY

WE GET TO OBEY, LOVE, AND BLESS OUR NEIGHBORS

We get to help our city - justice

We get to help our city – slow down reprobation

We get to look more like Christ and point people in his direction

We get to be God's eager messengers, heralds, or proclaimers, though we be hated – our friends are in great trouble.

## WE GET TO OBEY, LOVE, AND BLESS OURSELVES

We get to flee lust

We get to avoid unnecessary scars

*Proverbs 27:12 The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.*

Where you look and lead, your wife and children will follow.

# APPENDIX

## THE CHARACTER OF GOD

God is holy

God is longsuffering

God is selective

God is loving

God is irresistible

## THE PLOY OF SATAN

Hey, look over here!

Satan - the master fisherman

Satan knows how to make things look good to you - personally - everybody is different

Adam and Eve (Apple)

Lot (Green Pastures)

Esau (Soup)

David and Samson (Women)

Nebuchadnezzar (Pride)

Hey, how close can you get and not sin.

How close can we get to sin, and not sin?

Lot was riding the fence.

Lot was getting as close as possible without sinning.

Lot was in the "gray area."

I'll just get as close to the fence as possible without sinning.

Ouch, that one hurt. You can do better next time.

Genesis 14 - This is the first time Lot gets in trouble

He has not jumped in the city - yet - but because he is so close he gets in trouble

Lot and his family are taken captive.

I think this was God's gentle way of getting Lot's attention



Little "disciplines" from God appear if we are His children

See. Sin isn't that bad. You're doing pretty good. You're still in control.

Lot has not listened to God's discipline

Lot is sitting in the gate.

Feeling and ignoring God's tugging

Finally - he is sitting right in the middle of the place he said he'd never be.

Now I've God you.

You become a slave to sin long before you realize it.

It is as if Satan uses sleeping gas to lull you to sleep

Learn to think like me

Lot was willing to sacrifice his most precious possessions - for sin

Take this sucker!

So your life is miserable. Ha ha ha.

Sin looked good

Sin tasted good - for a while

Sin became very bitter

# OTHER WORK

## THE IMPORTANCE OF A GODLY FATHER

Preached at Palmetto Hills Presbyterian Church on Sunday, June 19, 2006

Looking for fathers who are not a lot like Lot

Genesis 13:8-13 Genesis 19:1-30, 36-38

### SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 13:8-13

8 Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left."

10 And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) 11 So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. 12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom.

13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.

[The remainder of chapter thirteen has to do with God telling Abraham how he saw the wickedness of these two cities and how he would destroy them. Abraham intercedes for these two cities but to no avail. Two angels then journey towards Sodom and Gomorrah, on their way to destroy the inhabitants, all while saving Lot who dwelt in the midst.]

Genesis 19:1-30

1 The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth 2 and said, "My lords, please turn aside to your servant's house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way." They said, "No; we will spend the night in the town square." 3 But he pressed them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house. And he made them a feast and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house. 5 And they called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them."

6 Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him, 7 and said, "I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly. 8 Behold, I have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof."

9 But they said, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them." Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and drew near to break the door down.

10 But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them and shut the door. 11 And they struck with blindness the men who were at the entrance of the house, both small and great, so that they wore themselves out groping for the door. 12 Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place. 13 For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it."

14 So Lot went out and said to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, "Up! Get out of this place, for the LORD is about to destroy the city." But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

15 As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city." 16 But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. 17 And as they brought them out, one said, "Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away."

18 And Lot said to them, "Oh, no, my lords. 19 Behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me and I die. 20 Behold, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there- is it not a little one?- and my life will be saved!" 21 He said to him, "Behold, I grant you this favor also, that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. 22 Escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. 23 The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar.

24 Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven. 25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

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

27 And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. 28 And he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace. 29 So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.

30 Now Lot went up out of Zoar and lived in the hills with his two daughters, for he was afraid to live in Zoar. So he lived in a cave with his two daughters ... 36 Thus both the daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father. 37 The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to this day. 38 The younger also bore a son and called his name Ben-ammi. He is the father of the Ammonites to this day.

PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

Do you ever ask yourself the question, "How did I get myself in this position or condition?"

Perhaps we ask this question when look at ourselves in the mirror or on the scale, "How did I let my weight get so far out of control?"

Or maybe we ask this question when we are balancing our checkbook, "How did we end up with so much debt?"

Or there maybe somewhere here wondering, "How did I become enslaved to medicine, drugs, alcohol, tobacco or pornography?"

Perhaps one is asking, "How did I end up marrying this ungodly woman or man? I knew better."

Is there one here asking, "What happened to my daily quiet times? I started this year with good intent and look at my poor track record."

Or possibly there is a parent here asking, "How did my son or daughter morph from being a cute, little, Bible-carrying, Sunday-school-attending, Jesus-loves-me-singing, child to the agnostic rebel he or she is today?"

How did I get myself in this position?

Well, there is an easy answer to this question.

We become overweight one Whopper at a time. So far, I have been married 15 years and I have gained 25 lbs. If my wife keeps cooking, and I continue at this pace, when I am 81 years old, I will weigh approximately 310 lbs.

We become indebted, over our head, one credit card purchase at a time – a little vacation, a little furniture, a little jewelry, etc ...

We become enslaved to pornography simply by one bad choice, leading to another bad choice, leading to months of bad choices.

We become enslaved to various substances by being lenient and unobservant with every bite, drink, or puff. There has never been one high school freshman who set her sights on being a drug-addicted-prostitute walking the streets of NY. But it happens with one small decision after another.

We become married to an ungodly spouse by engaging in one casual date and phone call after another for several months.

We become lax in our quiet times because we slowly and surely allow our schedules to be manipulated by pressure and pleasure.

We can contribute to the spiritual delinquency of our family by one poor choice after another, spanning a period of 10-15 years.

Some can see this in their own family; some can see it in the other families; all this morning will see this quite clearly in the story of Lot.

Look how Lot started and how Lot found himself at this stage in his life.

Lot began as an Abrahamic covenant community member  
ungodly city.

Lot ended as a community citizen in a most depraved and

Lot began as a farmer with great flocks.

Lot ended with all his flocks consumed.

Lot began as a farmer with great land.

Lot ended as a man with no land or home, living in a cave.

Lot began as a man with numerous servants.

Lot ended with no one to call him master.

Lot began with little girls listening to Uncle Abraham.

Lot ended with his little girls committing fornication with their father.

Lot's beginning was an optimistic one.

Lot's ending appears to be one of morbid depression and pessimism.

I think Lot looked back and wished he had made numerous different choices and decisions.

I do think Lot may have been sitting in his cave one evening, asking himself, "How did I get myself in this condition?"

And the answer is step by step, slowly, decision by decision, choice after choice, one little step at a time.

Satan's tactics have not changed ... he wants to do the same to you and to your family.

He is not to be trusted.

He is a roaring lion, seeking whom he can devour.

He is a master deceiver.

He wishes destroy us and our children.

And, he wishes to have fathers, like Lot, contribute to his plan of spiritual anarchy.

Here is the big question:

Will we groom children who are trophies of God's grace and character?

Or will we look back and wish we had made better decisions?

On this Father's Day, I am asking you fathers and mothers to learn from Lot and engage yourself to be parents who are not a lot like Lot.

Transition:

Let's look at how Lot's leadership effected his family.

I give to you seven principles that led to Lot's regretful situation.

## I. LOT MADE DECISIONS BASED FROM A WORLDLY FRAME OF MIND.

Lot had a choice and a decision to make.

There was constant bickering between his servants and the servants of Uncle Abraham.

So Abraham came to Lot and said, "You choose your direction and make a home there, and I'll go elsewhere."

How would Lot make his decision?

Would Lot lead his servants properly and make sure there was no longer any argumentation between his fellows and Abraham's?

Would Lot place his family far away from the heathen Sodomites or near to the place of corruption?

How will my family be effected by this?

What kind of lifestyle will I be placing in front of my children?

Would Lot bring God into this decision at all?

Would Lot ask Uncle Abraham for guidance and wisdom?

Abraham was known as a man of faith; a man whom God loved and blessed; a man who had God's ear.

Lot thought like most thought.      Lot reasoned like most reason.

Lot made decision, not unlike anyone else; and that is the point.

Lot made his choice from an everyman's, everyday, worldly perspective or frame of mind.

Where is the greenest pasture?

Where is the land most level and fertile?

Where can I make hay while the sun shines?

Where is the most commerce?

Where is the fun and excitement?

Where is the prestige and power?

Anyone would have made the same decision as did Lot ... if they simply made decisions from a materialistic point of view.

Anyone would have made the same decision as did Lot ... unless they were consumed with godliness for their daughters.

He chooses the best option - from man's point of view

Do you make decisions simply from a worldly frame of mind?

As believers, we shouldn't make decisions in the same manner, using the same rationale as everyone else does.

We have different priorities and values.

We have different beliefs and ethics.

We have a different end-goal.

We have different schedules.

We have a different guide-book.

We have different role models.

We have a different Master.

Is your decision making process in anyway different than the worlds?

It must be, or you will have a worldly product or worldly result.

It must be, or you will end up with a family a lot like Lots.

## II. LOT MOVED HIS FAMILY PHYSICALLY CLOSER TO THE DELIGHTS OF SIN.

Lot moved his family farther from the Covenant Community.

Lot moved his family away from the covenant leadership of Abraham.

Lot moved his family away from the Father of the Faith.

Lot moved his family away from the man who would receive God's blessing, seed and land.

And with every move further from Abraham, Lot moved nearer to sin and damnation.

Lot moved his family closer to Sodom.

Lot moved his family closer and closer to a city that delighted in sin and was opposed to God.

Can I say that this first decision of Lot was sinful?

Possibly, but I don't think I can demand this interpretation from you.

But if moving from Abraham toward Sodom was not sinful, at least you can agree with me that it was one huge step in the wrong direction.

Years later, Lot would look back at this decision and wish that he had chosen a different path.

Do you find yourself moving yourself and your family closer to sin and farther from church, or vice versa?

Teenagers, are you wondering, "How far can I go without it being sin?"

Parents, do you wonder, "How close to sin you can get without being burned?"

Lot was riding the fence.

Lot was getting as close as possible without sinning.

Lot was in the "gray area."

But Scripture teaches that we should not dance and flirt with sin, but that we should flee from sin.

We should oppose sin.

We should purge it from our midst.

Proverbs 27:12 The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.

If we don't hate and inoculate ourselves from sin, we will one day find ourselves deeper in sin than we ever dreamed possible.

Transition

We must think different thoughts than does the world.

We must physically remove ourselves further from the place of sin and closer to the place of God.

III. LOT PLACED HIS FAMILY IN A POSITION TO GAZE UPON THE DELIGHTS OF SIN.

Lot pitched his tent "towards" or "facing" Sodom, the city that was opposed to God.

At first, Lot did not move his family right into the city of Sodom.

He knew of Sodom's wickedness, and there was no way he could move there.

But Lot desired to be close to the wicked town.

The KJV uses this old language that helps us, "Lot pitched his tent towards Sodom."

The first thing they saw in the morning when arising was Sodom.

The last thing they gazed upon at night when going to bed was Sodom.

Here we had one family, living on a lonely hill, looking, lusting and panting for life in the big city.

Do you recognize that you and your family will pursue that which you gaze upon most?

Put the world in front of your eyes ... that is where you will head.

Too much worldly media ... too much TV ... too many magazines ... too many movies ... too much sin

Too much consumerism ... too much materialism ... too much sin

Too many ungodly counselors and friends ... too much sin.

Put Christ in front of your eyes ... that is the direction you will go.

Much Bible ... much godliness

Much preaching ... much godliness

Much prayer ... much power, strength and stability

Many Christian friends ... much encouragement.

What you do comes from what you want.

What you want comes from what you see.

Perhaps we need some Christian blinders.

Blinders are those devices that men put on horses to keep their gaze straight and narrow.

Psalms 1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Transition

We can't look and lust at the pool of sin for long, before we decide to put a toe in and check the temperature.

So it shouldn't surprise you to see Lot's fourth mistake.

IV. LOT PLACED HIS FAMILY IN THE MIDST OF A PEOPLE WHO DELIGHTED IN SIN.

Sodom was unabashedly wicked.

God for the first time in human history personally targets one particular city.

God set his sights on them, not just for judgment, but for destruction – annihilation.

Abraham could not help; ten righteous individuals could not be found.

Sodom was a cesspool of iniquity.

Men so depraved that they became homosexuals.

Men so depraved that they became rapists.

Men so depraved that they desired to violate innocent visitors to their community.

Look at the extent of the depravity, read verse four again, "But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house."

Men so depraved that they would do their heinous deeds in the open – this was acceptable practice.

Men so depraved that even when blinded, they continued their wickedness -- beating on the door of Lot -- still groping after being blinded.

Las Vegas, New Orleans, Amsterdam – they were all like going to kindergarten compared to Sodom and Gomorrah.

Never had there been such a gross city like this.

Sodom was unabashedly wicked and ...



Sodom was the hometown of Lot and his family.

Somewhere in time, Lot moved his family into the city that was opposed to God.

Lot, the “spiritual patriarch” planted his family right in the midst of this city.

Somewhere in time, Lot became a well-respected leader in the city that was opposed to God.

According to 19:1, Lot was an elder sitting in the city gate.

Somewhere in time, Lot’s children became in love with men of the city that was opposed to God.

They became married to these men.

Do you see now that what you listen to, and where you look, determines where you will end up planted?

What you see, that is where you will head.

Where you lead, there your children will follow.

Transition

But Lot’s path to depravity is not complete yet.

Let’s continue ...

V. LOT BEGAN TO THINK LIKE A PERSON WHO DELIGHTED IN SIN.

Lot was no longer offended by sin.

Lot accepted the wickedness and still continued to live in the city.

Lot knew full-well the sinful nature of the city, but continued to dwell therein.

It did not take him by surprise.

Lot recognized this behavior by those in the city, for when the men showed up, he begged them not sleep outside.

Lot was no longer grossed out by sin.

Sin was now acceptable, just a minor nuisance.

And the same sin that caused God's wrath to be kindled, effected Lot not at all.

Lot was not longer able to think reasonably or rightly.

Lot showed his foolishness by seeking to defend the mighty angels of God.

"No my friends. Do not this wicked thing."

Interesting that he called them friends.

Here is proof that Lot was no missionary.

Lot was accepted until he spoke out against evil.

The townspeople were surprised at Lot’s reaction.

Genesis 19:9 But they said, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them." Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and drew near to break the door down.

Lot had played not the part or the role of a missionary. He was not a change-agent.

He was simply a severely backslidden covenant child of Abraham living and acting as if he was not.

Lot showed himself to be more spiritually effected by Sodom than he ever thought possible.

Lot does the unthinkable.

Lot played the worst father possible.

Lot did what even ungodly fathers would not dream of.

Lot offered his daughters to the raving lunatics banging on his door.

Is it any wonder that later, the same daughters who were disregarded by their father, later disregarded their father?

Lot showed himself addicted to Sodom by having to be dragged out of the city.

In spite of all that has transpired, Lot was still reluctant to leave.

Lot has become one with the city. Lot has become worldly to the core.

## VI. LOT LOST EVERYTHING, INCLUDING HIS FAMILY.

Lot lost his possessions as they were all destroyed in the fire from heaven.

Lot lost his position in the city as the city was no more.

Lot lost his friends as they suffered the judgment of God and entered eternal fire.

Lot lost his security as he now would start life from square one.

Lot lost his wife as she became so enraptured with her beloved Sodom that she would not obey God's decree to flee and not look back.

Lot lost his sons-in-law.

Lot lost his daughters as they proved on the mountain to have the same ethics as those in Sodom and Gomorrah.

Lot lost his reputation – for the rest of his days, when looking at his sons, he would be reminded of his terrible failure to lead rightly.

Transition

Happy Father's Day!

Men, are you feeling a little disheveled?

Women, have you assisted your men in failing to lead your children rightly?

All of you, do you see where sin will take you?

Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and charge you more than you want to pay.

But now I wish to show you one last characteristic of Lot.

## VII. LOT WAS CALLED A RIGHTEOUS MAN.

God saw Lot's sin.

God saw Lot's looming damnation.

God elected and loved Lot

God sent Lot a saving mediator.

God dragged Lot from his sin.

God called Lot righteous.

2 Peter 2:7-9 And if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked 8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

God used Lot's sinful past in a glorious manner.

## CONCLUSION

Unbeliever ...

Do you see the terrible effects of following the world?

Do you see the terrible judgment of God?

You need to be saved like Lot

Luke 17:26-30 Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. 28 Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot- they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, 29 but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all- 30 so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

Believer ...

Look at the scars

You need to see sin and run.

Believer ...

You need to be a parent who is not a lot like Lot.

Lot's Salvation from Destruction

God provides not only help from the immediate situation, but more importantly, for his eternal soul.

God Hates Sin

God Honors His Covenant (Abrahamic) (Families)

God Sends Messengers (Heralds, Proclaimers) (Some heed) (Some hate) (God blinds ... they still tried)

God Waits (Longsuffering) (For all the elect) (Shows love for individual) (Allows the Gospel to be spread)

God Saves Some (Effectually saves those He chooses) (Provides the way, accomplishes the salvation) (Sovereign, omni)

Power over wrong decisions. Power over circumstances. Power over sin and the power of darkness Power over man's heart  
(Lingered, Argues, Hand) (vs. 16)

Lot Argued Even after all this, Lot is still seeking to negotiate with God. The angels tell Lot to flee to the mountains. (Lot argues.) Boice believes the "mountains" the Angels were referring to were the mountains of Mamre, the place where Abraham was, the place God had promised to bless his people with. Lot argues and disagrees. What is Lot saying? God, you know best how to save me, but not how to guide me. Look God, I know what is best - and the mountains are not the best choice. God, you need to listen to me. I know about taking care of sheep and oxen. God, I can trust you with salvation, but not with my life. Now listen here God - you can't have everything. Let's negotiate. Why is Lot arguing? Fear He still desires the pleasures of the city - which got him to this point. But even in spite of this attitude - God saves Lot.

Isn't it good that our salvation does not rely on our merit. Why can't we believe that God's providence and grace is great for salvation, but also for living. Praise be to God who saves us, in spite of ourselves.

God finishes what He purposes - He will not leave His work incomplete. God was responsible for the giving of His Word. God was responsible for the means of salvation. God accomplishes His salvation.

God Judges God's Salvation is Necessary - Because Judgment is For Sure

Referring to sermons about Sodom and Gomorrah

It is not that Christians glory in God's judgment and take it too seriously.

Rather it is a problem that Christians and those in the world don't take God's judgment seriously enough. We are lax in our thoughts as we take God's judgment lightly.

It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of an angry God. (Heb. 10:31) Fast - like lightening - patiently He waits until His judgment will explode.

"The sun had risen over the land when Lot reached Zoar."

It was while it was yet early that Abraham got up and returned to the place ..."

Sometime between these two events, the judgment of God rained down.

Once the judgment comes, the warnings are over.

God's Judgment is Total

No one escapes, except those who run to Jesus Christ,.

No archeologists have been able to locate the city of Sodom.

Our unsaved friends are in great danger.

THE PATH OF SATAN      VS.      THE PATH OF GOD

Introduction

Things in common: Christian School, Short hair, Wilds, Soccer and Basketball, Christian School Girlfriend, Church attendee, Can't grow a beard

Story of Lot

Lies of Satan

Hey, look over here!

Genesis 13:10

And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt ...

Lot makes a decision on sight vs. faith.

Sin looks good.

There are times when you feel that to walk like a Christian, you will be missing out.

Satan - the master fisherman

Satan knows how to make things look good to you - personally - everybody is different

Adam and Eve                      (Apple)

Lot                                      (Green Pastures)

Esau                                    (Soup)

David and Samson                  (Women)

Nebuchadnezzar                  (Pride)

What looks really good to you?

It is time to quit pretending that sin doesn't look appealing

I know that I kept waiting to grow out of it - I never have

We need to know what Satan is up to

The Pursuit of the Party Scene (Drinking and Drugs) (College)

The Pursuit of Materialism

The Pursuit of Power or Knowledge (Messing around with the Occult)

The Pursuit of Sex

The Pursuit of Popularity

Well, now that we all admit that sin looks fun - where do we go from here?

Hey, how close can you get and not sin.

Genesis 13:11-12

Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. 12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom

Lot plants his family toward Sodom.

Lot doesn't put his family in the wicked town

Lot just puts his family close to the town - His tent faced the town

Isn't that just like you and I

How close can we get to sin, and not sin?

How much "lovin" can we do and it still be OK?

We can watch certain movies as long as \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't happen

I might date \_\_\_\_\_, but I'll never do \_\_\_\_\_. Maybe I can even get him/her to go to church with me.

Oh, I go to the parties, but I don't drink

Slowly, Satan draws you in - First you look - then you get as close as you can

Guys, this is why the internet is so dangerous

Natural desires, natural curiosities, quick downloads, pretty soon you're in deep

Don't get close to sin - Be careful.

Ouch, that one hurt. You can do better next time.

Genesis 14

This is the first time Lot gets in trouble

He has not jumped in the city - yet - but because he is so close he gets in trouble

Lot and his family are taken captive.

I think this was God's gentle way of getting Lot's attention

Isn't that how God works with us

Little "disciplines" from God appear if we are His children

Parents catch you lying

School grades start dropping

You end up getting in trouble with you school

Police involvement

But Lot didn't listen - and many times we don't listen

That leads us to Satan's next lie

See. Sin isn't that bad. You're doing pretty good. You're still in control.

Genesis 19:1

And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground ...

Lot has not listened to God's discipline

Now Lot is sitting in the gate.

Community Leader

Well Respected

Established

Do you see the path Satan has taken Lot down?

Making decision based on natural, earthly desires

Moving as close to sin as he could without sinning

Feeling and ignoring God's tugging

Finally - he is sitting right in the middle of the place he said he'd never be.

Now i've God you.

See, you become a slave to sin long before you realize it.

Personal example of lusts

Lot's perversion

Lot had almost lost his family (it didn't seem to register)

Lot had lost all his possessions (it didn't seem to register)

Lot had moved his family inside this wicked city (didn't seem to care)

How wicked? Genesis 19:2-5

And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. 3And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. 4But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: 5And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

It is as if Satan uses sleeping gas to lull you to sleep

And look how successful Satan was at perverting Lot's mind

Genesis 19:6-8

And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, 7And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. 8Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof. 9And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door. 10But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. 11And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

Lot was willing to sacrifice his most precious possessions - for sin

Well, as we see, the angels took care of themselves

By this time you would hope Lot would hate his predicament and be ready to leave, but this was not true

Genesis 19:15-18

And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. 16And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city. 17And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

Satan had Lot right where he wanted him

In the middle of sin

In the middle of destruction

And not able to leave

Like the master fisherman - the bait looks so good - but the hook is hidden under it.

So your life is miserable. Ha ha ha.

Satan's goal is destruction



Since I can't take your life, I'll take your wife

Genesis 19:17, 26

And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed

But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

What else can I do to destroy your life

Genesis 19

Lot's daughters have children by their father

So where did sin take Lot

Sin looked good

Sin tasted good - for a while

Sin became very bitter

Destroyed all of his possessions (Twice)

Seriously endangered his family

Destroyed his family

Children grew up in sin

Wife became used to sin

Children defamed his name

Wife was destroyed by her desires

Where was Lot's relationship to God

It seemed to have disappeared when he separated from Abraham

Yet God was faithful to Lot in spite of himself.

This is no different than what happened in my life - and what can happen in yours

It looks so good.

I'll just get as close to the fence as possible without sinning.

Ok, just a little sin.

Where is God? Oh well, I'll get right with Him soon.

Ouch, that hurt. But I made it.

Forget God for now. This is great.

How did I ever get in this predicament?

Help

Sin will take you farther than you want to go

Sin will keep you longer than you want to stay

Sin will charge you more than you want to pay

Faithful Christian

Be careful

Run from sin before you start

Stay clear

Unfaithful Christian

How do you know you are saved?

Either way - sin is going to cost you (What you sow, you will reap)

How much are you going to pay?

Realize that God will save you - but the scars will be serious

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<sup>1</sup> Genesis 13:6-7

<sup>2</sup> Genesis 19:4