

Genesis 19:1-13 – A Man Like You

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Those around you will willingly confirm that you are not perfect. And without your help they can make a long list of your faults. You know many of those faults yourself. Today you will see another man with flaws 缺陷...a Christian, but one with personal struggles, sins, and regrets. His name was Lot. I know you will be able to identify with him. But there is one other way you will identify with Lot: He believed that it was through Jesus that his sins would be forgiven. So having the same problems as Lot, learn the moral and spiritual lessons from his life.

Our headings are: Lot's Hospitality, Lot's Infidelity 不忠, and Lot's Security.

Our goals are: That you will learn the lessons of Lot's life, but that you will also see the grace of God to a struggling Christian, a grace that came through Jesus Christ.

Lot's Hospitality

1 Now 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 he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. 2 And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square." 3 But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

1. It is impossible to physically live apart from the world... You have to go to Food Basics... you have to go to the Passport Office, you have to go to work with non-Christians, and you have to meet your neighbors on the street. You are in the world...but not of the world. You aren't best friends with those who hate Christ. You don't go to their wild nightclubs. You don't get drunk with them. Sadly, Lot made his home in the wrong place... far away from other covenant people with people who hated Christ. Lot had no retreat to the covenant community on the Sabbath. With no fellowship and no instruction in truth, he compromised on things of value. Other things, like his desire for wealth, were more important than worship and fellowship with Christians. He was unsanctified. You are unsanctified if you love anything else more than the worship of Jehovah God. No wonder when he thought about his relationship with God and God's people and he saw the sinfulness of Sodom, it tortured his soul. It is hard to keep fresh in salt waters. He believed in the true God and in the coming Messiah but he was overwhelmed.

2Peter 2: 7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) —

We can say that Lot was a gold nugget covered with dirt and grime. He didn't make the effort to clean out himself. He loved the pleasures of Sodom more than the glory of God, unlike Moses (Hebrews 11:24-25) who gave up the honor to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be afflicted with God's people rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. I believe that the men of Sodom were descendants from Ham, so Lot had no right to be mixing with such wicked men who had not returned to the true God.

2. Lot sat at the gate of Sodom...he was like one of the judges in Sodom. In Eastern cities the "gate" was the market place, the court of justice, a place to discuss new ideas, and a place for entertainment. It was a favorite place to be in the evenings. Even though the Sodomites accept Lot as a judge, he needed to remember that worldly advancement was not necessarily a sign of growth in grace. Remember that it is not necessarily God's approbation 赞许 if you are successful socially, financially, or politically. You may still be sinning. Your judgment may just be delayed.

3. Nevertheless, in spite of his weakness, Lot showed great respect to the visiting men (bowing before them out of respect) and offered hospitality to the 2 men (who were angels, but he didn't know that). You see, even not-so-strong Christians can do good things. He insisted, **literally begged** that the two men spend the night in his home with his family. This was important for safety reasons, as you shall see, but it was also an act of kindness.

4. As his uncle did, and as was customary, Lot also washed the visitor's feet, leaving you a good example of humility.

What good reward waited for him for such a generous act! What great rewards come to you as well!

Hebrews 13:2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

Where there were no inns and no acquaintance, it was not uncommon for travelers to sleep in the street wrapped up in their cloaks. But good people – godly people- are always generous people. You know what you have received – your great and awesome salvation and a heavenly hope- so you show kindness to those who are needy.

Brothers and sisters, this is a thing – kindness- that needs to be rekindled 重燃. Why? We have moved to a selfish

and an individualistic society. This is increasingly difficult in families with only 1 child...so be on guard.

Lot's Infidelity

4 Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. 5 And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally 肉体." 6 So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, 7 and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! 8 "See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof." 9 And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. 10 But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. 11 And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door.

1. As Lot's family and the guests settled down to sleep, the wicked Sodomites surrounded his house and demanded that Lot send out the 2 men so that they would commit adultery with them. Men who commit these sins usually would have done so in secret and in shame, but sin was so rampant 猖獗 in Sodom that they were proud and loud about their sin. Ambrose wrote long ago: Sin spreads as leaven 酵, and is as catching as the plague

Isaiah 3:9 The look on their countenance witnesses against them, And they declare their sin as Sodom; They do not hide it. Woe to their soul! For they have brought evil upon themselves.

One man said that the Sodomites had "hard hearts" and sinned with a "high hand." They had no sense of shame. Sadly, even Judah became like this during Jeremiah's life time.

Jeremiah 6:15 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination 厌恶? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush 脸红. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the LORD.

2. However, in Eastern cultures a man would rather die than to be responsible for harm to his guests. So Lot offered his daughters as the playthings for the people of Sodom – that they might commit adultery with them. **Lot was acting like an infidel**...and that may have been insulting to some infidels. Lot even **called these men "brothers."** (His daughters were his enemies, and the wicked men of Sodom were his brothers.) These men were many things, but they were not brothers to Lot. They were enemies and should have been confronted as such and Lot should have called them to repentance.

3. This act by Lot was contrary to every parental expectation. He was not loving. Rather, Lot exposed his daughters to danger. He should have been willing to die for his daughters. Lot did not have the authority to do this. And these girls were possibly betrothed 订婚 to other men. Calvin wrote: "He should have been willing to die a thousand deaths that do this." Though Lot had a good motive (protecting his guests), no one must do evil for good to come. Sadly, this is the kind of decision a parent can make who is not being nourished by the Word of God and has a weak faith. You can harm your children by your weak faith. And look...Lot chose to live a place with no church...Should he have been surprised that he had these horrible choices? Money? Yes. Morals. No. If you choose to live apart from God, you too may sell you children.

4. Notice how prayer was clearly missing from Lot's actions! Being far from God than he should have been, it probably did not cross his mind. No wonder he sinned so grievously.

5. Yet, because of Jehovah's love for his saints, foolish as they might be, he protected Lot. How? The angels struck the men of Sodom with blindness of their eyes and blindness of their heart. Angels are employed for the special preservation, even of those that expose themselves to danger by sin. Remember, it Christ's goodness (a goodness that Lot believed in) that saves...not your own goodness.

6. While most people would understand God's judgment if they were all suddenly struck with blindness, these men's hearts were so wicked that they spent all night still trying to find the door to hurt Lot and his guests. What horrible judgment. What horrible sinners. The Bible

warns that men should rather lose their sight and keep their salvation – but not this bunch. This stubbornness in sin continued with Judah and her kings... until God rose in judgment on them!
2 Chronicles 36:16 But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed嘲笑 at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy.

Lot's Security

12 Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take them out of this place! 13 "For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it."

1. The angels with Lot, having proved the wickedness of the place, inquired whether Lot had any other family there in Sodom. This was done in order to offer them a way out of the coming destruction on Sodom. Notice that this was a covenant blessing...the angels wanted to be sure that Lot and his family were secured. This is a benefit of being in a covenant community. This is the same kind of blessing that covenant children receive through their baptism.

2. And then the angels made clear that Sodom was going to be destroyed and they were going to do it. This judgment was clearly stated in order to impress on Lot and his family a sense of urgency.
2Peter 2: 7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) — 9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

3. Personal questions: If you were to lose every earthly thing you own, would that kill you? Would you miss your stuff so much that you become despondent沮丧的, disillusioned幻灭, and depressed? Or would the things you possessed in your heart and in heaven give you the urge to keep going on? And now, put yourself in the angels place for a minute. Would you be able to deliver such a harsh message of hell to a stranger so that God would rescue him? Would you be able to give this warning of the coming dangers of hell to your children?

Conclusion:

One thing we know for sure: Being relatives with a great person does not make you great. Yes, Lot was a Christian...but he was out of the support network that God required. And with his eyes on the prosperity of Sodom, he started to compromise and make bad choices. He did not call Sodom to repent. He did not care enough about his daughters. He did not pray that God would protect them. Yes, he was kind to strangers, but God expects total faithfulness from his children in all areas of life. He redeemed them with the blood of his Son, so he expects nothing less than perfect obedience.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: 1. Does hospitality mark your path? 2. Will you grandchildren see a life of faithfulness in you? Will your children have a good godly example to follow? Are they seeing parents who can't drag themselves away from worldly success, prestige, and worldly recognition? Do they see you selling them out (ignoring them, etc.) so you can get these worldly things? No, you won't be perfect, but do they see and are able to follow one who returns quickly to the Lord when he does sin? 3. Do you realize that it is the blood of Christ that makes you spiritually safe? He saved you from the fires of hell (Revelation 20), and when you stand before the Great White Throne he will usher you into glory without stain or wrinkle. 4. Take time to praise the Lord for his protection.

Finally, Jesus died to take the punishment for your worldliness – your love for the world. If you give him your heart he will give you a new one and grant you the grace to live in accordance with his will.