

Genesis 19:14-23 – A Man Like You – Part 2

Eclectic, Trapp, Leupold, Gill, JFB, Matthew Henry, Geneva, Calvin, Sailhamer, Poole, K&D, Clarke, Psalm 119:60

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: When you started to hear the story of Lot last week, what did you think? Maybe you thought: "He was just like my husband, he was just like my son, or he was just like my wife." But I also trust that you identified yourself with Lot...not just in the fact that you can be taken over by worldly pursuits at the expense of worship...but that you see the eternal security you have in Jesus Christ. Today you will continue to see the weakness of this man...and more of the way God preserved him because he trusted in Jesus Christ.

Our headings are: **A Foolish Family**, **A Faithful God**, and **A Faulty Plea**.

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 your adoption by Jesus Christ.

Foolish Family

14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

1. Foolish sons-in-law. They jeered嘲笑 when they should have feared. But because they were apart from God's grace, they doubted God and God's word. They doubted like Eve did when she doubted God's word and ate the fruit in the Garden. They doubted like Abram did when he doubted God's word and took Hagar as a wife...They did their own thing...like Uzza did when he ignored God's word and grabbed the Ark of the Covenant – and died. They were more like the men Jonah talked about: Those who neglect the only hope that could be theirs.

2. It is true that these men probably did not hear much of God's faithfulness because they were not around God's covenant people. And how sad was their reality! But ignorance of the law is no excuse for bad behavior. They were like men who sleep through thunder and lightning. But brothers and sisters, ignoring God's Word is bad for your spiritual health.

3. This strong call to get out of Sodom was not just an urging for the saving of the lives of God's covenant people. No, it was also a reminder that Lot and his family were to live separated from wicked men and their wicked lifestyles. You see, if you are around wicked people you can't help but act wickedly. If you are around people who always talk about cheating on their wives you will be tempted to do so also. If you are around people who boast about speeding on the road, you will find the pressure to speed. If you are around people who lie to get sick days from work, guess what you will soon be doing? That is why Jesus urged Christians through John to come out from the wicked Israelites.

Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues."

Consider also:

James 4:4 Adulterers奸夫 and adulteresses淫妇! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

I read somewhere that even pigs know to return home when they see the storm coming.

Acts 2:40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse倒行逆施generation."

15 When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city."

4. Foolish Lot. He dillydallied (postpone doing what one should be doing) when he should have been hurriedly getting his family ready to save their lives. What a poignant凄美 lesson this is for fathers today! Are you taken up with wasteful activities and abandoning your wife and children to the Devil? If you are too busy to care and teach them, you are abandoning them!

5. It is kind of interesting that the angels waited until morning. I believe that it was the sunlight that showed lot the sinfulness of the people of darkness. Lot saw the light so he could walk to freedom, but the night before the men of Sodom was given blindness so they would become lost. Such was the judgment of God. Yet, Lot was slow to respond. He was like the shipwrecked person whose only hope is to release his luggage but wouldn't do so. And

in spite of all of this, brothers and sisters, see the promise to the covenanters and their family...they were saved. They submitted to the terms of the covenant and God fulfilled his part. Let's examine that salvation of this faithful God!

Faithful God

16 And while he lingered徘徊, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.

1. **God's Sovereignty.** Because Lot was still lingering, the angels literally had to hurry them up, taking them by the hand and pulling them out of the city. Lot not only had the sun to show him where to go, but he also had the guiding hand of God through the 2 angels. Like the frog in cold water would stay and boil as the temperature increased, so Lot would have stayed there and be destroyed with Sodom – except for the grace of God. The truth is, man will not move without God. No man can move without God. No one would even believe without God moving him. God must draw man. Remember, there is none that does good of himself...no, not one.

John 6:44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

The word "draw" suggests a strong forceful pull.

2. Maybe this historical account with Lot will help you to see how strong your sin nature is...how there is a battle that rages in all of you. The things of the world can be such strong attractions that they are difficult to leave behind. But Sodom and all it represented had become a deadly disease...and amputation was the only option for Lot to survive. If God did not pull Lot, how sad this story would have been! Consider the strong pull of wealth to the rich young ruler!

Matthew 12:22 – The young man went away sorrowful because he had great wealth.

He gave up eternal salvation because he could not give up his wealth.

17 So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."

3. But consider **man's responsibility** that goes along with God's sovereignty. The angels required that Lot and his family continue with urgency - escape for their lives. That should have been enough to make Lot run will speed. But the angels went farther. They said: "Do not look back." In other words: "Don't think about what you are leaving behind." And: "Go across the plain without stopping, and head to the mountains for safety." Lot's family had to learn to leave everything behind and focus on that which was ahead...not only physically, but emotionally also. They had to learn to fully trust God's Word as well.

4. One commentator allegorized this instruction to Lot as well as a good warning to Christians.

"Return not to sin and Satan, for that is looking back to Sodom. Rest not in self and the world, for that is staying in the plain. And, reach towards Christ and heaven, for that is escaping to the mountain, short of which we must not take up. (Perseverance)" It is true that this is not the obvious point of the text, but it is surely interesting.

Faulty Plea

18 Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords! 19 "Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. 20 "See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live." 21 And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken. 22 "Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called

Zoar. 23 The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar.

1. Instead of doing what the angel said, Lot pretended to know more than the Lord himself and asked for refuge in a nearby place - a place well developed. He did not ask to go back to Abraham. (Most people want their family when they are in trouble.) In doing this Lot was like a man who has a ruptured artery in his heart but doesn't think he needs surgery to fix it. You see, Lot's heart was still beating for "little Sodom." But a little bacteria 菌 in the right conditions would be a whole lot (a truckload) of trouble by tomorrow. This one city, Zoar, became the small part of the cancer that spread again...even though the 4 greater cities were destroyed.
2. Lot's request also showed his **distrust of the power of God** to preserve his and his family's life. But could not he that saved him from greater evils (perverted men of the city) save him from the lesser evils (troubles in the mountains from wild animals)? God even showed greater power and gave Lot the gift of salvation. What a miracle each one's salvation is! A man is turned from a sinner to saint in an instant. Even his desires change. Should you trust him?
3. A loving God, in order to make Lot come to his senses and teach him some good lessons, gave him what he wanted. But when God gives you what you want, when it is contrary to his will, isn't it always to your hurt? Isn't it a recipe for disaster? But Lot had to learn a harsh lesson. God is a loving God and sometimes his love leaves marks.
4. A description of the sun was given to show that this was not natural storm, but it was Divine justice. No storm would normally come in bright sunshine. This was justice that came at a time of God's choosing. And it did come, as we shall see, with much power and destruction, to the amazement of everyone who saw it.

Conclusion:

Lot was a Christian but he was not great. He surrounded himself and his wife and daughters with wicked men who had bad influence upon their lives. His sons-in law did not benefit from his goodness. His daughters turned out to be perverted. His wife lived for the world and died a stunning death of being changed into a pillar of salt. Lot himself was tardy...late in their response to leave Sodom and he still had some of Sodom in his heart. The reason he was led out of Sodom wasn't because he wanted to leave, but because he trusted in Jehovah God...He believe in a coming Christ. And God moved him – contrary to Lot's own will. Lot was a lousy 糟糕 father and an ineffective 无用 husband...but he was saved and secured by looking to the Savior.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: What will your history read at the end of your life? Would you wife say at the end of your life that you had an aberrant love for wealth and pursued it to the death? Did you and your family pursue pleasure at the expense of preparing for praise and worship each Sabbath? Will your family be confused – not fully understanding the truth because you didn't take the time to teach them? How will it be recorded that you lived before God? If your record is bad, there is a solution. If you understand the riches you have in Jesus Christ and know that you are sitting in heavenly places even now, then the false pursuits of this world would become dimmer and dimmer. You will love as you are loved. That is the legacy you must leave for your children.

Finally, even if you have a bad history now, one in which you did not trust in Jehovah, a good history can be arranged. Isn't that wonderful? Jesus died to take the punishment for your worldliness. He is the only one who can change your life's history – erase all the memory of your sins. If you surrender to him, he will grant you the grace to live in accordance with his will...and indeed that you too will be able to leave a greater legacy 遗产 for your children...the best kind that you can.