

A Lot of Trouble

Gen 13:5-13; 18:17-32; 19:1-11, 24-28

Introduction:

1. Lot's story is one of the saddest stories in the Bible.
 - a. He had to be rescued out of Sodom which was destroyed by fire
 - b. He lost almost everything that was important to him.
2. What was his problem?
 - a. He was in the wrong place - had no business in Sodom
 - b. Lot did not begin in Sodom. He began with Abraham.
 - c. However, because of lack of room, there was a need for a break, and he chose to break TOWARD Sodom.
 - d. He only leaned in that direction.
3. Maybe you aren't in Sodom yet, but you pitched toward Sodom, toward SIN, WICKEDNESS, DESTRUCTION
4. We often hear of people falling into sin.
 - a. However, the average Christian doesn't just fall into sin.
 - b. He first LEANS TOWARD sin then falls into sin
 - c. If you lean in a direction far and long enough, you will eventually fall in that direction.
5. A certain family had two sons. The older said he must make a name for his family, so turned his face toward Parliament and fame. The younger decided to give his life to the service of Christ and turned his face toward China and duty. He was Hudson Taylor, the missionary, who died beloved and known on every continent. "But," someone wrote, "when I looked in the encyclopedia to see what the other son had done, I found these words, 'the brother of Hudson Taylor.' " Some ridiculed him when he went to the mission field, but in the end, he was respected and admired. His mercifulness had not been in vain, even as far as the world was concerned. But the merciful also receive recognition and reward from God Himself. This takes place both in this world and, in its full measure, in the world to come.
6. This morning let's look at Lot's choice and see how he made it and where it took him.

I. LOT'S DESIRE WAS CARNAL – 13:10

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, as thou comest unto Zoar.

A. *His Desire was Based on SIGHT*

1. Remember the temptation of Eve - Gen. 3:6
2. Remember the temptation of David - 2 Sam. 11:2
3. Beware of making decisions based only on sight!
 - a) *Josh 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.*
 - b) *2Co 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)*
4. Choosing something because it is more economical is not wrong
 - a) *It is not wrong to buy gas or groceries where the price is best*
 - b) *It is not wrong to buy farmland that is more fertile*
5. The problem here is that material advantage is the only thing that guided Lot in his choice
 - a) *He didn't seek the counsel of God*
 - b) *He didn't pray for wisdom to make proper decision*
 - c) *Spiritual considerations did not enter into his choice*
 - d) *Family values didn't enter into his choice*
 - e) *Many choose jobs, schools, friends, marriage partners, housing mostly on the basis of material gain and advantage*

B. *His Desire was Based on SELFISHNESS*

1. He should have let Abraham choose first
2. Lot's motive was "What's best for me?"
3. He was desiring what would help his FLESH.
4. He was more interested in meeting his physical needs than he was in doing the right thing.
5. Our desire should be toward HEAVEN – Col 3:2
2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

C. Sodom Reminded Him of Egypt

1. Egypt is usually a picture of the world
2. He liked what he saw in Egypt and wanted more
3. He hoped it would be a good place to raise cattle, but he should have been concerned about his kids
4. He wanted God's best and he wanted all that the world had to offer - He ended up getting neither
5. **Lu 16:13** No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

II. LOT'S DIRECTION WAS CARELESS – v 11-12

A. He Went the Way of the World

1. "Then Lot chose" – 3 critical words - live with the consequences
2. **Rom 12:2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
3. Illustration – one boy went to church other boy skipped
4. Decisions may seem small at the time, but you never know where those roads will lead.
 - a) *Kids (and parents) need to think twice before they attend that party.*
 - b) *Because you never know when you'll make a decision that will change the course of your life forever...that dance/car alone together/rebel against parents "then Lot chose..." and he lived forever w/ the consequences of that worldly-minded*

B. He Went the Way Toward the Wicked

1. **1Thess 5:22** Abstain from all appearance of evil.
2. Don't go the way of the wicked; go the way of the righteous!
3. **Ps 1:6** For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

C. Lot Was Weak in His Devotions – 13:3-5

3 And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai; 4 Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD. 5 And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

1. Vs 4 - Abraham had an altar
2. Vs 5 - Lot had flocks, herds, tents, no mention of an altar
3. Vs 4 - Abraham had devotions

III. LOT'S DEDICATION WAS COMPROMISED

Gen 13:13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

Gen 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;

- He started out with his tent pitched toward Sodom.
- But by chapter 19, he SAT in the gate of Sodom.
- Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

A. He Stepped Into Their World

1. "Blessed is the man that WALKETH not in the counsel of the ungodly ..."

B. He Stood in Their Way

1. "... nor standeth in the way of sinners ..."

C. He Sat in Their Wickedness

1. "... nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."
2. Sin is progressive.
 - a) *If you pitch your tent toward Sodom...*
 - b) *You will eventually sit in the gate of Sodom, as one of the elders of the land!*

IV. LOT'S DOCTRINE WAS CHALLENGED

Gen 19:14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

A. Lot Had a Doctrine of Divine Visitation

1. He said that God had given him a message!
2. Lot had sacrificed the truth of God in order to physically benefit his children.
3. Later his children would not believe the truth of God from his lips.

B. Lot Had a Doctrine of Divine Vengeance

1. He warned of destruction!
2. Part of soul-winning is telling people that there is a HELL!
3. People will not believe our warning if we won't live separated, holy lives!
4. If your children won't believe your message and warnings and they end up in a mess, it is a sure sign that YOU messed up by pitching your family's tent toward Sodom.

V. LOT'S DAUGHTERS WERE CORRUPTED

Gen 19:36 Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father.

A. Their Morals Were Corrupted

1. They believed it was more important to have children than to be pure!
2. Where did they learn this?
3. They learned it from Lot and from those Lot allowed them to have for companions!

B. Their Memory Was Corrupted

1. They were remembered as the ones who brought forth two of the main enemies of Israel, the Moabites and Ammonites.

VI. LOT'S DECISION WAS COSTLY

Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

- What were the results of Lot's pitching his tent toward Sodom?

A. His Ways Became Sinful

1. Gen 19:8 - He offered his own daughters up to the sodomites to defile.

B. His Witness Became Sterile

1. God would have not destroyed the city if there were at least 10 righteous people there, according to Genesis 18:32
2. Lot and his wife had at least four daughters and two sons-in-law, for a minimum of eight people, maybe more, but there were not even 10 righteous people in the city!
3. Lot didn't win anyone to the true God, and I don't believe he even won his own children!

C. His Will Became Soft

1. According to Gen. 19:16, he still didn't have strong enough will to leave Sodom, knowing that it was going to be destroyed ... "he lingered"
2. One problem with American men is that their WILL is feminine, weak, and wishy-washy.

D. His Wife Became Salt

1. Jesus' comment about this was, "Remember Lot's wife"!!! (Luke 17:32)

E. His World Became Soot

1. Everything he had was burnt up by God's fire.

Conclusion

1. Don't even lean TOWARD Sodom!
2. Don't lean in the direction of the world, the flesh, devil!
3. A.W. Tozer said, "A whole new generation of Christians has come up believing that it is possible to accept Christ without forsaking the world." I think he's right.
 - a. Listen, Christ has called us out of darkness to walk in the light.
 - b. He's called you to something great, and you'll not find it by pitching your tent toward Sodom.
 - c. Some of you chose to make camp with the Lord, and I praise and thank God for you and your testimony.
 - d. But to be very honest, I am deeply concerned about others here today who are living in the moment
 - e. It is time for a change in your life; it is time to roll up and move your tent. If you've accepted Christ as your Savior, then its time for you to forsake the world and pitch your tent with the Lord!
4. If you've never been saved, you've pitched your tent toward certain destruction.
 - a. The Bible teaches that you stand condemned already, and if this moment were to be your last then you would spend eternity in a devil's hell.
 - b. Just as God brought judgment on those wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah he'll bring it on you.
 - c. You need to recognize the danger you're in and admit it to yourself and to God.
 - d. You need to repent, move your tent, relocate and find the life you've been looking for with the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - e. The hardest thing about being saved is being willing to admit that you were wrong and God is right; then you need to act on what you know to be true and come to the Lord humbly, seeking His love and mercy, and you'll find it there as you will in no other!

11 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.

A boy was raised by his mother. She would not let him to go to movies. It was against the rules. His friend was raised the same way. When they became teens, his friend said, it's Sunday night, let's skip church, and go to the theatre. "No, better not"/ "oh, come on!" They decided to go their separate ways, the one to church, the other to the theatre. The one who went to church became a successful pastor and the other one moved to Hollywood and eventually became a successful producer. One day that pastor was in L.A., preaching a meeting. He decided to call his old friend. They got together. His friend said, "you know, several years ago when we were teens, I skipped church to go to the movies" "I remember," the pastor said. "Little did I know that on that night, we were prophetically choosing our life's work."