

Lot Lesson 8

INTRO:

- A. According to Genesis 11:27, Lot is Abraham's brother's son - his nephew.
 - 1. He is the son of Haran, who was the son of Terah, Abraham's father.
- B. After God told Abraham to leave his family and his father's house to go into the promised land, he went out taking with him his nephew Lot and his wife Sarah. (**Genesis 12:1, 4-5**).
- C. Genesis 13 tells us Abraham and Lot's possessions grew in number, so much that the land was unable to support their herds. (Genesis 13:1-12)
 - 1. Their herdsmen even fought against each other. (v. 7)
 - 2. Because of this, Abraham decided to part ways with Lot. (v. 9)
- D. This is the beginning of Lot's problems:
 - 1. Lot chose the place he thought would be good for his herds, but he didn't know it wasn't good for him. (**Genesis 13:10-13**)
 - 2. Lot and his family became 'spoils' of war and needed Abraham to rescue them. (Genesis 14:1-16)
 - 3. The actions of the wicked people in the place Lot chose "vexed" him. (**2 Peter 2:7**)
 - 4. He lost his wife because she disobeyed God while they were leaving the city. (Genesis 19:12-26)
 - 5. Last of all, his own daughters had no sense of morality, in that they caused him to get drunk so they could bear his children. (Genesis 19:30-38)

I. **Lesson #1: Your Direction, Not Your Intention, Determines Your Destination.**

- A. No doubt, at every single step leading up to disaster, Lot would have told you what his intention was:
 - 1. "I'm going to honor the God of Abram, I'm not going to get caught up in the nonsense and the sin of Sodom."
 - a. That could have very well been his intention.
 - 2. But it's not our intention that determines our destination, it's our direction.
- B. For some, the direction they're heading, they are going to wreck their life:
 - 1. They are on a path that will lead to addiction.
 - 2. They are on a direct path to divorce.
 - a. They don't intend to do it. No one intends to wreck their lives. But it's the direction, not the intention, that matters.
- C. The moment Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom, he started walking down the path that led him to running for his life with everything around him being destroyed.
- D. Possessions and herds separated Lot from his uncle Abraham.
 - 1. Money and riches must never be over and beyond family.

II. **Lesson 2: What We Set Our Eyes On Is What We Begin To Value.**

- A. Let's recall where Lot determined his direction.
 - 1. It was when Abram gave him the choice of where to live: (**Genesis 13:10**)
- B. Lot couldn't get past what his eyes saw, because what we set our eyes on we begin to value.

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1. This is completely the opposite with Abraham, who didn't go by what his eyes saw. (**Hebrews 11:8**)
 - a. Abraham truly 'walked by faith'; Lot 'walked by sight'. **2 Cor. 5:7**
- C. It's an extremely dangerous thing to live by sight because the eyes are so deceiving.
 1. No doubt, once Lot saw the plain of Jordan, he couldn't get it off his mind.
 - a. What are we choosing to put in front of our eyes?
 - 1) Is it God's Word, or is it television?
 - 2) Is it God's Word, or is it our phone?
 - b. Whatever you put in front of our eyes, for better or for worse, that's what we begin to value. So be careful!
 2. Don't dwell on and meditate on wickedness and don't allow wicked people to influence you
 3. Lot "*pitched his tent even as far as Sodom*," which was a place where the people lived "*exceedingly wicked and sinful*" lives "*against the Lord*." (**Genesis 13:12-13**)
 - a. Lot constantly exposed himself to wickedness and sinfulness.
 - b. We are warned not to do that. (**Matthew 6:22-23**)

III. Lesson #3: Sin Always Has Our "Best Interest" At Heart. (Sarcastically speaking, of course!)

- A. Lot, no doubt, felt fully justified making the decision to pitch his tents toward Sodom.
 1. It was a plain, which would be much better for his flocks than the hill country.
 2. There's civilization, which would make it much easier to get to the market.
- B. In his mind, he probably had a number of reasons to justify why his choice was the right choice.
- C. But that's the problem: Sin always has our "best interest" at heart.
 1. We've lived this truth out in your own life too many times.
 2. We've managed to talk ourself into every bad decision we've ever made.
 3. Every bad decision we've ever made in our life has had one common denominator: ME, MYSELF, and I.
- D. Sin is so deceiving, which is why we need God and His word.
 1. Left on our own, we will deceive ourselves into every bad decision we'll ever make, and we'll justify it every step of the way as being in our best interest.

IV. Lesson #4: Value God's Mercy And Run Away From What He Wants Us To Run Away From.

- A. Genesis 19 shows how God rescued Lot and his family.
 1. God did not want Lot to stay in Sodom, and thus sent His angels to bring them out before He destroyed the cities.
 2. Lot and his family, however for some reason, strangely lingered. (**Genesis 19:15-16**)

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- B. God was being merciful to Lot even though he and his family apparently didn't really value it.
 - 1. It could have been that Lot's wife didn't really want to leave because, after all, she looked back, only to become a pillar of salt.
- C. We must give value to what God has done for us through His Son Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Christ gave His own life for us, because He was the only one who could free us from sin and death.
 - a. We must learn to value that and never look back.
- D. What about us and some bad situation we might be in?
 - 1. Maybe it's a work situation where ethics left the building a long time ago.
 - 2. Maybe you're single and you're in a sexual relationship you know doesn't honor God.
 - 3. Maybe you're involved in a habit that you thought you could control but now it's controlling you.
 - 4. Whatever the case, if you're ever living in 'Sodom', if you're ever living in a situation where you know is wrong, **RUN!**
 - 5. Lot justified and rationalized his decision to live in Sodom for years, but in the end he had to run.

V. Lesson #5: Our Choices Directly Affect Those We Love And The Generations After Us.

- A. As bad as things were for Lot, his story isn't finished.
 - 1. It's found in Genesis 19:30-38.
 - 2. After Lot lost all he had, his home, and his wife, Lot and his two daughters fled to the mountains and lived in a cave.
 - 3. The same two daughters, he had earlier offered to the mob when the angels visited, thought up the idea for them to "*preserve the lineage of our father*" (v. 32).
 - 4. They got Lot drunk and carried out their plan.
 - 5. It's interesting to note that the descendants of that incest become the tribes that would be at war with the Israelites for centuries - the Moabites and the Ammonites.
- B. Lot's choices he made in life didn't just affect him and neither do our choices affect just us.
 - 1. They got his wife killed, it ruined the lives of his two daughters, and his sons/grandsons, and their descendants for generations.
- C. Our choices **NEVER** just affect us. They **ALWAYS** affect those we love and the generations to come.

CONCLUSION:

- A. May we learn from Lot...
 - 1. to not be moved by the appearance of things.
 - 2. to choose wisely.
 - 3. to walk in honor.
 - 4. to listen to the Lord.