



TALKS FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS TRANSCRIPT

Talk Genesis 19:1-14: The Angels Warn Lot about the Coming Judgment of Sodom

Lesson 40

"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.

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."

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.

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." 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."

Background Notes

When the angels arrived in Sodom to announce the coming judgment, they found Lot sitting in the gate of Sodom. In Bible days, the gate of the city was like the town hall. The ancient gates had "chambers," or areas within the walls, where the elders of the city would sit to determine the city policies and judge community affairs. So it looks like Lot had not only moved into Sodom, but also he was active in the government of Sodom.

We know from 2 Peter 2 that Lot was a believer, and we read there that he was oppressed by seeing the wicked conduct and lawlessness of the people of Sodom. So it's possible that Lot was an elder of the city and may have been trying to bring reform to

Sodom as he sat in the gate. This is indicated in verse 9, when the people of Sodom said, *"This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge..."*

Lot's efforts at reform in Sodom were not successful. Lot's problem in trying to bring in reforms was that his bottom line for being in Sodom was not to serve God and be a missionary to Sodom, but to selfishly get all the worldly wealth he could out of that wicked city.

You cannot have it both ways. The Lord Jesus said, *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."* (Matthew 6:24).

The two angels, appearing as men, had come to Sodom for two reasons. The first was to confirm that the sins of Sodom were great, and that God was just in His judgment of Sodom. The second reason was to rescue Lot and his family, in answer to Abraham's prayers and concern.

Doctrinal Points

1. God says that homosexuality is a sin.

It is quite obvious that the men who had surrounded Lot's house were the homosexuals of the city (v5). We know from Ezekiel 16, that homosexuality was not the only sin of Sodom, but it is the sin for which Sodom has been known, even to this day. Notice how widespread the sin of homosexuality was in the city of Sodom: *"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" (v4).*

Look what the angels said: *"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" (v13).*

Jude says that homosexuality was the sin for which God judged Sodom. *"As Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire" (v7).*

God says that the practice of homosexuality is a sin. You need to emphasize that **God** says it, because these days there are so many other views. It is not Dave Reid saying it -- **God** said it, and we must agree with God.

Under the Mosaic Law, the sin of homosexuality was punishable by death. In Leviticus 20:13, God says: *"If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them."*

God did not change His moral standards concerning this sin when we come to the New Testament. Let's read Romans 1:26-27, *"For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27*

Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due."

The Bible leaves no doubt that there is a high price to pay for the sin of homosexuality.

But what about the argument that homosexuality is genetic, and therefore it must be OK? And if it's not OK, then it's God's fault if someone is born with this genetic characteristic! Genetic or not, we are all born with the tendency to sin. We cannot pin the blame of our innate sinful nature on God! The sinful nature (which we **all** inherit) is the result of the bad fall out of sin, which has come into the human race. We **all** struggle with sin. Some have a weakness in one area, and some have a weakness in another area.

Remember, being tempted is not sin, but yielding to the temptation is sin! Let's say that it can be shown that someone is born with a tendency to be homosexual. That tendency or vulnerability is not a sin -- but homosexual practice is sin. We all have areas of vulnerability with which we are born, and as believers we have the responsibility to resist falling pray to our areas of vulnerability.

Now here is the good news! God is willing to forgive this sin, as well as any other sin, when a person turns to Christ. In the power of the Holy Spirit, a Christian can resist sexual temptation, whether it be heterosexual sin or homosexual sin. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 says: *"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."*

But notice verse 11, *"such were some of you."* Notice the past tense of the verb: "were." Some of the Christians at Corinth had been homosexuals -- but no longer! They had found deliverance in Christ. Now it doesn't say that they didn't struggle with temptation any longer, but they found victory in Christ. The same is true today.

Notice, further, what verse 11 does **not** say, "and such were some of you, but now you are loving, committed, homosexuals in a same sex marriage." No, God says that homosexuality is a sin.

In reference to sin, (the sin of homosexuality and every other sin), believers need to have Abraham's attitude: Love the sinner but hate the sin. In Genesis 14, Abraham went out, at the risk of his own life, and rescued Lot and the other people of Sodom. Among those he rescued, there have been a number of homosexuals. Abraham was not a "gay-basher." He rescued the homosexuals and every other type of sinner, but he didn't approve of their sin or of their sinful lifestyles.

Remember, God says that homosexuality is a sin.

2. Believers can become desensitized to sin.

Look at what Lot said to the homosexual men surrounding his house. *"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" (v6-8).*

How can a man, someone who is described as having a "righteous soul" in 2 Peter 2, suggest such a terrible thing? Answer: Believers can become desensitized to sin. We know that in those days the cultural code was to protect your guests at all cost, so some Bible commentators have tended not to come down too hard on Lot for this action. In other words, Lot was a product of his culture.

Well, that's exactly my point! Because of the culture that surrounds us, believers can become desensitized to sin. Lot moved into Sodom, and although he was a believer, he became desensitized to sin. Lot was **way** off target! His value system was all messed up, because he had become desensitized to sin.

Just consider what you tend to tolerate now, compared to say ten or twenty years ago, as to what you watch on TV, or what movies you go to, or what videos and DVDs you watch. Much more we could say here! Believers can become desensitized to sin.

Practical Application: Is your Christian life a joke?

Take a look at verse 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."*

Lot's life and testimony were a joke to these men, his own sons-in-law. You can just hear them saying, "Wait a minute Lot, if you say Sodom is so bad, what are you doing living in Sodom anyway?" No wonder Lot's message to his family was ignored, and he even seemed to them to be **joking!**

The same is true for many Christians today. Is your Christian life a joke? Do we claim that we are believers and love the Lord, and only what is done for the Lord Jesus really counts in the end, but then we go and live a materialistic lifestyle or try to get the most pleasure out of this world? If so, our Christian lives really are a "joke." Our Christian testimonies are hollow. They carry no weight!

When we tell people that this world is under the judgment of God and is passing away, we appear to be joking if we ourselves are tied up in this world! If we **really** believe that this world is under God's judgment, why don't we live more in line with what we believe? Think about it -- is your Christian life a joke?