

The Far-Reaching Results of Lot's Sin

Genesis 19:30-38

Genesis 19:30-38 – *“Then Lot went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountains, and his two daughters were with him; for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar. And he and his two daughters dwelt in a cave. ³¹ Now the firstborn said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is no man on the earth to come in to us as is the custom of all the earth. ³² Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father.” ³³ So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.*

³⁴ It happened on the next day that the firstborn said to the younger, “Indeed I lay with my father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father.” ³⁵ Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

³⁶ Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. ³⁷ The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day. ³⁸ And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the people of Ammon to this day.”

Background Notes

The first part of Genesis 19 was all about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. God judged these cities for their wickedness, and their destruction came about suddenly and completely. These cities have never been rebuilt. God may have used a natural catastrophe to destroy these cities of the plain. If He did, it was still a miracle, because the natural catastrophe was precisely timed, and took place on God's exact timetable.

Lot and his two daughters escaped the destruction of Sodom, but only because the angels dragged them out of the city in the nick of time: *“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.” And while he lingered, 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” (v15-16).* Lot's wife didn't make it because she lingered and looked back, and thus she was overtaken by the catastrophe. She became a “pillar of salt,” a historic reminder that the judgment of God is sure and may be swift. The Lord Jesus said in Luke 17:32: *“Remember Lot's wife.”*

The angels directed Lot to flee to the mountains. *“So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that they said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed (v17).* But Lot bargained with the angels to let him live in Zoar, a small city of plains.

Soon after the catastrophe Lot changed his mind and decided to move to the mountains after all. I wonder why? Possibly he reasoned that the advice of God's holy angels was probably a good idea - or perhaps he feared that Zoar would also be destroyed. But notice that Lot did not move back to the mountains on the west side of the valley - perhaps because Uncle Abraham was located there.

Apparently Lot never did get back on track - he never did move back close to Abraham. In fact he moved farther away, to the mountains on the east side of the Dead Sea, now known as the mountains of Moab. It's there that Lot lived in a cave with his daughters.

Doctrinal Points

1. Moving toward Sodom will have drastic effects on the believer's personal life.

Where did Lot make his mistake? Where did he go wrong? Lot's problems started when he made that selfish decision - that selfish choice - in Genesis 13:11: *"Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east."* Lot's problems began to intensify when he moved closer to Sodom. He could have lived his selfish life in the rich pastures of the Jordan Valley, but Genesis 13:12 says, *"Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom."* It wasn't long before Lot moved right into Sodom. 2 Peter 2 tells us that Lot was a believer, but Lot didn't move into Sodom as an evangelist. Lot moved into Sodom for selfish, materialistic reasons, and it had drastic effects on his personal life. Although Lot was bothered by the *"filthy lives of lawless men"* (2 Peter 2:7-8), he became desensitized to sin. His thinking had become so distorted that he actually tried to protect his guests at the expense of his own daughters! Genesis 19:8: *"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."*

Lot's distorted thinking was the result of making that original selfish choice to move towards Sodom. By the end of chapter 19 Lot had lost **everything**. However, rather than moving back to live near faithful Abraham, who would have welcomed him with open arms, Lot and his daughters became cave dwellers. Lot's will power, moral standards and integrity were so messed up that his daughters were able to get him drunk and have sexual relations with him on two successive nights - and Lot didn't even know what was going on! All this was the result of moving to Sodom for selfish, materialistic reasons.

In the Bible, Sodom is a picture of "the world under judgment." Scripture teaches that the believer is to be separate from this world and its evil. Being separate from the world doesn't mean we have to go off and live as Christian hermits - that's **not** what being separate from this world is about. In fact, in John 17 the Lord Jesus prayed that His disciples would not be taken out of this world - rather that they would be **in** the world, but not **of** the world. That's the key! We are to be in the world, but not of the world.

Lot was not only **in** Sodom, but he was **of** Sodom, and that was the problem. He was not living in Sodom as a missionary. He was not living in Sodom to evangelize Sodom. Lot tolerated much of the value system of Sodom, and it had drastic effects on his personal life. It's still true today. Moving toward Sodom has drastic effects on a believer's personal life.

2. Moving toward Sodom will have drastic effects on the believer's family life.

It has often been said that Lot got his daughters out of Sodom, but he never got Sodom out of his daughters. The influence of Sodom on Lot's daughters remained for life. Do you think Lot's daughters would ever have stooped to do what they did with their father if they had not been raised in Sodom? Moving towards Sodom will have drastic effects on the believer's family life.

Notice that God was completely left out of the thinking of Lot's daughters. *"Now the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no man on the earth to come in to us as is the custom of all the earth" (v31).* Not only was such reasoning way off base, but what about God? Couldn't God have provided husbands for these women? Of course he could! But Lot's daughters were brainwashed with a Godless view of life. When Lot moved towards Sodom, then into Sodom, it was inevitable that his daughters would absorb Sodom's culture, values and worldview.

Bad fallout from the world's attitudes and actions will affect your family if you "move toward Sodom." You can't raise your children with a secular worldview and expect that they won't be drastically affected.

Parents, you must teach your children a biblical Christ-centered worldview. They don't have to go to Christian schools or Christian colleges. **Parents are responsible** to clearly teach a **Christian worldview** to their children - by **lip and by lifestyle!** If not, your children will be brainwashed by this world system, and it will have drastic effects on their values and attitudes for the rest of their lives. Moving toward Sodom will have drastic effects on the believer's family life.

3. Moving toward Sodom will have drastic effects on other people.

We see that truth taught in the descendants of Lot and his daughters. The nations of Moab and Ammon were the result of the incestuous relationships between Lot and his daughters. The pagan Moabites and Ammonites were enemies of God's people for years to come. Not only that, they caused Israel to commit the sins of idolatry and immorality. Check out Numbers 25, I Kings 11, and Jeremiah 32 in this connection.

Where did this problem begin? It began when Lot moved his tents towards Sodom. Have you heard this expression: "You can't sin in a vacuum"? In a moral universe, it's impossible for your sin not to affect others. Other people *will* be affected - sometimes for years to come. Moving towards Sodom will have drastic effects on other people.

Practical Application

In Heaven - how would you like to be Lot?

2 Peter 2 indicates that Lot will be in Heaven because he was a believer. That's the good news. The sad news is that Lot lost out forever on any reward that could have been his, had he made godly choices. He made worldly choices, and we have seen the sad results.

Hebrews 11 is the "Hall of Fame of Faith." Sadly, Lot is not even mentioned in Hebrews 11. Hebrews 11 doesn't say that "by faith" Lot chose to move toward Sodom, or "by faith" Lot chose to bring up his family in Sodom - or that he ever did **anything** "by faith." Faith in God was left out of Lot's decision-making process. Lot will forever be remembered as an example of the worldly believer.

Would you like to be "Lot" in Heaven? There are way too many Lots in the church today. Are you a "Lot look-alike"? Think it through!

Remember this question: How would you like to be Lot when you get to Heaven?