

**Series:** Beginnings, Betrayal, Blessings  
**Title:** How not to live your life  
**Text:** Genesis 18:16-19:29

Is it a message on intercession?

Is it a message on the remnant?

Is it a message on judgment?

It is a message on how not to live your life.

## The story

### Chapter 13: Lot separates from Abraham

- Lot chooses the Jordan Valley and the southern portions east of the Dead Sea
- <sup>10</sup> *And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)* <sup>11</sup> *So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other.*

### 18:16-21- God reveals His plan to Abraham

- Abraham was to know because this was His territory promised by God
  - <sup>17</sup>... *“Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do,* <sup>18</sup> *seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?*
- God says He will confirm the evil
  - <sup>20</sup>... *“Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, 21 I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”*
- Gen 13:10-12 – says that the Valley was well watered and likened to the Garden of Eden.
- These were cities that had two of the four kings that were involved in the battle of none kings... they were on the losing side.

### 18:22-33 – Abraham Intercedes

- <sup>23</sup> - *“Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?”*
  - This is the second time we see God’s judgment on unrestrained wickedness that holds no hope for repentance.
  - The Flood – wickedness was complete
  - Sodom and Gomorrah
- 50 / 45/40/30/20/10

## 19:1-14 – the evil confirmed

- The angels come to warn Lot
- The whole town surround Lots house – to the last man.
  - They desired to do evil.
  - In the end they were all blinded and groping around the house.
- Genesis 13:13 – **exceedingly wicked sinners against the Lord**
  - *Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the Lord.*
- Isaiah 3:9- **Display their sin and do not conceal it.**
  - *The expression of their faces bears witness against them, And they display their sin like Sodom; They do not even conceal it. Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves*
- Jer. 23:14 – **adultery, walking in falsehood, strengthening the hands of evil doers – so that no one has turned back from wickedness**
  - *Also among the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: The committing of adultery and walking in falsehood; And they strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one has turned back from his wickedness. All of them have become to Me like Sodom, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah.*
- Ezekiel 16 – **arrogance, abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy. they were haughty and committed abominations before Me**
  - *Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy. Thus they were haughty and committed abominations before Me. Therefore I removed them when I saw it.*
- Luke 17 – **eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building;**
  - *It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.*
- **2 Peter 2- would live ungodly lives, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men**
  - *...and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter; and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,...*

### **19:12-22 – the escape**

- Warns future sons in law – they thought it was a joke
- He lingered, so the angels dragged him out – 16
  - *So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.*
- Lot asks to go to Zoar, and the Lord allows it

### **19:23-29 – the Destruction**

- As soon as Lot arrived at Zoar – the fire and sulfur fell from heaven
- Abraham goes and looked the destruction
- It is used as an example of the Lords intent in the future
  - Deuteronomy – a land of salt, burning waste, unsown and unproductive, and no grass grows in it, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah

### **19:30-38 – Depravity**

- Lot's wife "looked back" and was turned to a pillar of salt.
- Lot and daughters living in a cave
- Daughters, influenced by Sodom, see a need to procreate
- Get dad drunk
- Sleep with him
- Have children and those children become enemies of Israel for generations – Moabites and Ammonites

### **Is it a message on intercession?**

- Yes, God calls us to pray for the protection of the righteous and intercede on behalf of those we love.

### **Is it a message on the remnant?**

- Yes, God has shown many times that he will protect the righteous from His wrath and we can see these times and trust that we also will escape His wrath and Judgment.

### **Is it a message on judgment?**

- Yes, Sin will be judged. There will be a time when chances are done, time is up and we will stand before the Judge of all.
- Oh that we have the redemption of the Savior on that Day.

**Today I want to bring a message on how NOT to live your life.**

The story of Lot in the book of Genesis (Genesis 19) is a cautionary tale of how not to live your life.

- Lot took a series of small steps that led him closer and closer to a dangerous moral situation and he ended up running for his life and losing everything.

**What are some timeless truths we can learn from the life of Lot?**

## **Lessons from the Life of Lot:**

### **1. Your direction determines your destination. Not your intention.**

I first heard this statement from another preacher and I've always remembered it. I think at every single step leading up to disaster,

- Lot would have told you what his intention was:
  - 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.
  - I believe that was his intent.
  - But it's not your intention that determines your destination, it's your direction.

And where do we see Lot's direction headed over a number of years?

- Closer and closer to Sodom, and pretty soon he was a leader in the city.
- For some of you, the direction you're heading, you are going to wreck your life.
- You are on a path that will lead to addiction; you are on a direct path to divorce.
- Now, you don't intend to do it. No one intends to wreck their lives.
- But it's the direction, not the intention, that matters.

The moment he pitched his tents towards Sodom, he started walking down that path that led him to running for his life with everything around him burning with sulfur from heaven.

- **Choose the correct destination – to walk daily with your Lord**

### **2. You will place your highest value on what you set your eyes on.**

Let's go back even a step further and see where Lot determined his direction. It was when Abram gave him the choice of where to live:

### **Genesis 13:10**

*Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt.*

Lot couldn't get past what his eyes saw, because what you set your eyes on you begin to value.

- This is completely contrasted with Abraham, who didn't go by what his eyes saw.
- Here's how the writer of Hebrews put it:

### **Hebrews 11:8**

*By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.*

Abraham lived by faith, Lot lived by sight.

- The reason it's so dangerous to simply live by sight is because the eyes are deceptive, and whatever you set your eyes on you begin to value.
- Once Lot saw the plain of Jordan, he couldn't get it out of his head.

So, what are you choosing to put in front of your eyes?

- Is it God's Word, or is it television?
- Is it God's Word, or is it your phone?
- Whatever you put in front of your eyes, for better or for worse, that's what you begin to value.
- So be careful.

### **Set your eyes on the Lord and His ways**

## **3. Sin always seems to tell your heart to believe it is best for you.**

Lot felt fully justified making the decision to pitch his tents near Sodom.

- It was a large plain, which would be much better for his flocks than the hill country.
- And there's civilization, which would make it much easier to bring his animals to market.

In his mind, he probably had a bunch of reasons to justify why his choice was the right choice.

- But that's the problem: sin always seems to have your "best interest" at heart. Your heart!
- You've lived this truth out in your own life too many times, and here's what I mean by that: you've managed to talk yourself into every bad decision that you've ever made.

- Every bad decision you've ever made in your life has had one common denominator: YOU.

Sin is incredibly deceptive,

- which is why we need God, why we need the Holy Spirit to transform our hearts,
- because left on our own, we will deceive ourselves into every bad decision we'll ever make,
- we'll justify it every step of the way as being in our best interest.

**Ask the Holy Spirit to transform your heart to give you wisdom and perception.**

#### **4. If Sodom is where you live, get out!!**

This is for those of you who might be living in a bad situation.

- Maybe it's a work situation where ethics left the building a long time ago.
- Maybe you're single and you're in a sexual relationship that you know doesn't honor God.
- Maybe you're involved in a habit that you thought you could control but now it's controlling you in a full-blown addiction.

Whatever the case, if you're ever living in Sodom, if you're ever living in a situation where you know it's wrong, run. Just run!

- Lot justified and rationalized his decision to live in Sodom for years, but in the end he had to run.
- You don't want to wait until the fire starts raining down and you lose your business or your family.
- If you're in Sodom, I can't say this strongly enough: get out!!

**Run away from sin and run the race with endurance the race set before us.**

#### **Hebrews 12: 1-2**

*<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

## **5. What you choose will impact those you love and the generations coming after you.**

As bad as things got for Lot, his tragic tale isn't over.

- I'll summarize the end of his life from Genesis 19, and if you want the gory details you can read it yourself.
- After Lot lost his wealth, his home, his wife, Lot and his two daughters settled up in the mountains and lived in a cave.
- Oh, how the mighty had fallen!

His daughters, the same ones Lot had offered up to the mob, wanted kids so they got their dad drunk and he impregnated both of them.

- And the descendants of those incestuous relationships would become tribes that would be at war with the Israelites for centuries.
- Lot's life choices didn't just affect him, because our choices never just affect us.
- They got his wife killed, it ruined the lives of his two daughters, and his sons/grandsons and their descendants for generations.

Your choices never just affect you. They always affect those you love and the generations to come.

**Protect your children and children's children – Choose righteousness!**

### **CHALLENGE**

- 1. Choose the correct destination – to walk daily with your Lord**
- 2. Set your eyes on the Lord and His ways**
- 3. Ask the Holy Spirit to transform your heart to give you wisdom and perception.**
- 4. Run away from sin and run the race with endurance the race set before us.**
- 5. Protect your children and children's children – Choose righteousness!**