

Lessons from...

I. Slide1a Intro:

- A. Fire & Rain in our Valley fit right into our chapter tonight.
- B. **Recap:** ch.18 **the Lord** had appeared to Abraham with **2 angels**. (Isaac. Sarah laughs. Lets tell Ab)
 1. He sent the 2 angels *on ahead* to **Sodom & Gomorrah** to check on 2 things: *their outcry is great & their sin is grave*. (see 18:16,20,21)
 - a) Actually 5 cities destroyed (Deut.29:23): *Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar*.
- C. We are going to **read** through the whole chapter that we could title *50 shades of Sodom*.
- D. **Slide1b Outline:** *Lessons from Lot, Lot's wife, Jesus, Peter, Jude, Ezekiel, Abraham & God*.

II. Slide2 LESSONS FROM LOT (1-22)

- A. **Abraham** met the 3 in the daytime. **Lot** will meet the 2 angels at night.
 1. Lot had lost his **tent** (now settled in **a house**). Lot had no **altar**. Lot lost his **fellowship with God**. He lost his **spiritual standards** (he dared to suggest that his single daughters go out in the street to satisfy the lusts of the crowd). Lot had also lost **his testimony with his own family** (14).
 - a) **Where did it all start?** When he *lifted up his eyes* (13:10) and chose his land.
 - b) He started *walking by sight, not by faith*, living for the things of the world.
 - c) He choose **land** for **cattle** rather than what was best for **his kids**.
 - d) He must have married a worldly woman, for her heart was in Sodom and she could not bear to leave the city behind.
- B. The children of this horrible scene, the **Moabites** and **Ammonites**, became bitter persistent enemies of the Jews for centuries.
 1. **Lessons from Lot's daughters** - **Were the girls paying back dad for almost throwing them out to be gang raped?** [placing hospitality over love of daughter?]

- C. Who are you in the story?...you/we are **Lot**. (we are *deeply flawed individuals*, who have made *many mistakes*, who are in desperate need of *God's grace*, who require many *second chances*)
- D. Slide3 Will you just take a few minutes right now to thank Him for **His grace** in *your life*.

III. Slide4a **LESSONS FROM LOT'S WIFE (1-22)**

- A. Lk.17:32 Remember Lot's wife - 1 of the shortest verses in the Bible.
1. Jesus is commanding us to remember someone whose **name** we never knew. **Nor** anything she ever **said** or **did** is recorded in Scripture, **and yet** the Lord wants us to *remember her*.
 2. The only thing to remember about her is that she was the one who *looked back*.
 - a) *Looking back* – i.e. grieving over the imminent loss of her material comforts and high social position among her ungodly neighbors.
 3. Slide4b 2 Cor.5:15 **And he died** for all, that those who **live** should no longer **live** for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

IV. Slide5a **LESSONS FROM JESUS (1-22)**

- A. Luke 17:28-30 *Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot - they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, 29 but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all - 30 so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.*
- B. Similar to conditions in the days of Lot.
1. The end times will be just like the *materialistic, indifferent* people of Sodom (eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, & building) who were not prepared for God's judgment.
 - a) *It will be business as usual. They lost the Best by living for the Good.*
- C. It's a dangerous thing to get so absorbed in *the pursuits of life* that we forget *Jesus is Coming!*
1. Jesus consistently taught the *certainty of the fact* of His Coming, **but** the *uncertainty of the time*.

- D. That morning dawned bright and beautiful (23)
- E. People started about their daily tasks **and then judgment came**. The wicked cities were completely destroyed (only Lot & his 2 single daughters escaped alive)
1. **Sodom's fate** is a picture of *the wrath to come*. **When men think there is peace and safety, then destruction will fall** (1 Thes. 5).
 2. **Lot's rescue**, meanwhile, is an *illustration* of **the rapture of the church** prior to the pouring out of *the wrath of God*. The Lord rescued Lot for **Abraham's sake** (19:29), **and** He will deliver His church from the wrath to come for **Jesus' sake**.
 - a) **Slide5b** 1 Thes.1:10 *...and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come*. 1 Thes.5:9 *For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ*.
- F. **Talk with the Lord about His Coming**. *Does it comfort you? Concern you?*

V. **Slide6a LESSONS FROM PETER (2 Pet.2:6-10)**

- A. **2 Pet.2:6-10** *if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked 8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones,*
- B. We would never know that **Lot** was a *true believer*, if not for Peter (2000 yrs ltr)
1. Who wants all their friends in heaven to greet them w/a look of shock, **dude, you made it?**
- C. History shows us, God **saved Noah & delivered Lot & so He'll also deliver the righteous** today from spiritually destructive attacks. (sp attacks *yes*, to our destruction, *no*)
1. **And**, Just as He **didn't** spare the angels who sinned, **nor** the ancient world, **nor** Sodom & Gomorrah, **He will also not spare the wicked in the end**.

- D. (10) **bold/presumptuous**– Headstrong daredevils. A reckless daring that defies God & man.¹
1. **Self-willed** – *Self-pleasing, arrogant*. One who is determined to please himself at all costs. (LKGNT)
 - a) **Slide6b** Andrew Murray asked, *What are the works of hell? They are chiefly these three: self-will, self-trust, and self-exaltation.*
- E. **So**, is God a *frightening Judge*, or is He a *good gracious Father*? **Yes**.
1. It just depends if He is dealing with His **children** or His **enemies**.
- F. **Slide7** Do you know God better as **Judge** or **Father**?

VI. **Slide8 LESSONS FROM JUDE (7)**

- A. *Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.*
1. **Peter** prophesied that *false teachers* would come. **Jude** says that they are now here and at work.
- B. **Jude** gives **4 reasons** not to follow these false teachers: *Because of their **End, Mouth, Emptiness**, & their **Lifestyle**.*
1. But the 1st reason not to follow them was because of their end...these false teachers were on the **same path** of judgment...as the *unbelieving Israelites, the Fallen Angels, & Sodom & Gomorrah were on.*
 2. How foolish to follow them down the same path *that you know* is *booby-trapped*, has *land mines*, & *a ticking bomb* at the end...with your name on it.

VII. **Slide9 LESSONS FROM EZEKIEL (1-22)**

- A. *What upset God so much about Sodom & Gomorrah?*
1. **Sexual Immorality**, Yes...but Ezekiel gives us **4 others things before** that's even mentioned.

¹ LKGNT

2. Ezek.16:49,50 Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had **pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.** 50 They were **haughty** and did an **abomination** before me. So I removed them, when I saw it.

B. Slide10 Talk & listen to God on 1 of these 5. *Proud, gluttonous, lazy, ignoring the poor & oppressed, pride, live obscene lives.*

VIII.Slide11 **LESSONS FROM ABRAHAM (1-22)**

A. Warren Wiersbe's assessment of these last 2 chapters: (ch.'s 18,19)

1. Christ Himself visited Abraham, **but** only the angels went to Sodom to visit Lot.
2. Christ had a message of joy for Abraham and Sarah, **but** the angels gave a message of judgment to Lot.
3. Abraham was visited in the daytime **but** Lot in the evening.
4. Abraham was at a tent door; Lot at the city gate.
5. Abraham had power with God **but** Lot had no influence even with his own family.
6. Abraham saw Sodom destroyed and lost nothing, **but** Lot lost everything (only his life was spared).
7. Abraham brought the world blessing, **but** Lot brought trouble into the world (the Ammonites and Moabites).

B. Really, the destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah *isn't the story*. Even all the bad choices by Lot, *isn't the story*. Perversion *isn't the story*. What do we see revealed by/about **God**? That's the story...

IX.Slide12_{a-g} **LESSONS FROM GOD (1-22)**

A. It's a story of **rescue & redemption** (Lot's life, and part of family).

B. A story of **mercy toward unbelievers & believers.**

1. (11) **struck w/blindness...was mercy.** [A lot of of would *judge them evil* & just dust them on the spot...not God]

2. (16) **seizing Lot by the hand...was mercy.** [Lot sat in gate. Lot lingered. Lot was seized **or touched by an angel**]

a) God not content w/leaving His son in Sodom :)

C. A story of **favor** (19,21) fear of the mountains, not of a little city. (Zoar = *little*)

D. A sort of **great kindness** (19) Lot attested to the fact God showed him great kindness.

E. A story of the Lord's **anger/judgments** (not fly off handle) are always *very calculated, well weighed & perfectly informed.*

1. 18:22 - this saying of the Lord declares his judgments **well weighed and perfectly informed.**

F. He teaches us in this story God **responding to prayer/cries** - **outcry.** (18:20 & 19:29)

G. He teaches us in this story that **Abraham's exclamation** was spot on in 18:25c.

1. **Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?** Yes!

2. And remember what was the lowest number Abraham asked for? 10.

a) God didn't find 10 rt in Sodom, **but** spared four: Lot, his wife & 2 daughters, for the sake of Abraham.