The man was ecstatic. The job offer had been accepted and he and his family were about to receive the opportunity of a lifetime. Not only would he have the notoriety and prestige that would come with such a position, but he would be able to afford the best things for his family and the best schools for his children. There was also the possibility of partnership and perhaps one day–politics.

As the years passed the dream had become a reality. His children, having been educated by the best minds and in the most prestigious of schools, were now grown and holding down impressive careers of their own. Politics had also become a part of that reality, the man felt he was really doing some good for his community. No, church and God had most definitely not been the first priority in his home, but he had made sure to raise his children with a high sense of moral value. They knew what it was to make a difference in their community. After all, they had learned from the best. True, the views of his children were a bit more culturally “advanced” than his own, but he was certain that they understood the importance of God and country.

Holiness? Sure, but not at the expense of entertainment? Not at the expense of embarrassment with his friends? Not if it would cost him his career or… heaven forbid… his position in the community! God was gracious after all, and surely God understood the price one had to pay to do some good in this world. Surely God didn’t expect a man to live without having to make some compromises, did He?

Yes, God does understand the price it costs to do some good in this world. It costs a life.

Genesis 19

Theme: Time To Leave

2 Peter 2:4-9

4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; 7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) 9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.

Vs.1

Lot paid a high price for his “prestige”.

Lot believed he could influence the culture of Sodom for “good” by being a voice of influence. Unfortunately the good Lot believed he could do could not offset the compromise and influence that he had opened himself and his family up to.

There is only one influence that can overcome the influence of sin–a new heart.

Lot attempted to change the culture of Sodom without first changing the heart of the Sodomites.

Vs.2

Tolerance of sin is humiliating.

Vs.3

In offering the men shelter, Lot is attempting to “shelter” his pride from exposure.

In reality Lot is offering only the illusion of shelter.

Psalm 127:1

Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Proverbs 16:8

Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

False spirituality accepts hypocrisy in place of holiness.

Matthew 15:7-8

7 Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, 8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

John 12:42-43

42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess [him], lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Vs.4

Sin demands participation, holiness welcomes unity.

Ephesians 4:1, 3, 12-15

1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, ... 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ... 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: 14 That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ.

Compromise leads to entrapment.

Vs.5

The men of Sodom were used to Lot doing their bidding.

Sin makes animals out of the most decent of people.

Sodom is a society in full decline, completely given over to sin.

A society is in full decline when sin is openly practiced, celebrated, and expected as a “right”.

Vs.6

Lot is an example of one who is not of this world, but still attempting to be at home in this world.

Lot was not the same person at home as he was in public.

John 17:14-18, 21

14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. 18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. ... 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Vs.7

John 3:19-21

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

1 Corinthians 3:18

Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Matthew 12:33

Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.

Vs.8

The condescending nature of compromise will never endear us to the world.

Lot’s sense of morality has totally been corrupted by the society that he has worked so hard to be a part of.

“Good in your eyes”... How sad when the world is deciding morality for the church.

Lot’s compromise has caused him to willingly place his family in harm's way for the sake of his reputation among the most irreputable.

Lot believed that the ends justifies the means because his compromise was for a “good cause”. In his mind, he was doing his part to “protect” God’s people. Unfortunately he was willing to sell out his family for the sake of “getting along”.

Vs.9

The world will tolerate, put up with, and even use God’s people, but they will never accept them.

John 15:18, 24

18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. ... 24 If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.

The problem with hypocrisy is that the mask will eventually slip.

Lot did not want the angels to know that he was associated with wickedness, and he didn’t want the men of Sodom to know he was associated with God’s people.

Vs.10

God’s mercy is not dependant upon our will.

Vs.11

Sin never knows when to stop.

Beyond all reason and physical tolerance a man driven by sin will persist in his downward spiral until destruction or deliverance mercifully ends his sorry state.

Vs.12

Lot was not responsible for the choices of his children, but he was responsible for the influences that led to those choices.

It is a father’s place to lead.

Never ever ask your kids to go somewhere that you are not willing to lead them.

Vs.14

The truth was so strange on the lips of Lot that it came across as a joke.

2 Peter 1:4-9

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Vs.15

“Consumed”

scraped off, wiped out

Personal events do not change God’s timetable.

Vs.16

At the moment of Lot’s personal testing he failed to fully appreciate the signs of the times. Lot was not ready to go… but he was still taken.

1 Corinthians 15:52

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

The specific actions of God’s mercy towards Lot were a direct result of Abraham’s intercession.

Vs.17

Who was in the mountain? Abraham

Lot had made an absolute mess of his life and his family's life, but he has been given an opportunity to turn his back on the past and respond to God’s word of mercy…

What will be his choice?

ENDING

Our past failures are never an excuse for future compromise.

The effect of the past is meant to be forgotten in the light of future promise.

Philippians 3:12-16

12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. 16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.