It was never supposed to have turned out this way. It was as if someone had pulled the single thread that held his entire life together. In one moment it had all unraveled. His wife had left him, his kids were a mess; drugs, suicide, unwed and with child... The job, the prestige, his standing in the community, gone. What had happened?

He had done everything he was supposed to. Everything that made for a successful life in this world had been placed at his fingertips… and then had slipped through them. But… he had found God, or more accurately, God had found him! In the midst of the wasteland of his life he had discovered the mercy and grace of a God who loved him. Surely his children would rejoice with this news? Surely the men of his acquaintance who at one time lauded him as the very answer to their community's needs would hear him, but no. They laughed. They mocked. They distanced themselves and treated him as a stranger, or worse, an enemy. How had things come to this?

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?

**Lot’s heart**

2 Peter 2:4-8

4 For if God… 6 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 [worn down] with the filthy [unbridled] 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;)

1 Corinthians 3:3

For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

“Carnal”

having the nature of flesh, under the control of the appetites of the flesh

A “carnal christian” is one whose soul belongs to God but his life belongs to himself.

The motivating principle of a carnal christian’s life is “self”. Self desire, self determination, self direction.

The motivating principle of a Spirit filled christian is the cross.

Lot had a righteous soul but an unrenewed mind and an uncrucified flesh.

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Ephesians 4:22-24

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Galatians 5:24-25

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Luke 9:23-25

23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. 24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. 25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?

**God’s heart in our deliverance.**

Isaiah 52:10-12

10 The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. 11 Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD. 12 For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the LORD will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your rereward.

Vs.18

“Lot”

covering

Isaiah 25:7

And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations.

Lot had made it a habit of questioning God’s word.

Vs.19

The flesh sees grace only as an escape hatch.

Lot was willing to recognize that God had saved his life, but was not willing to let God direct his life.

Lot was happy to escape outward destruction but unwilling to let God rescue him from inward corruption.

Vs.20

“Zoar”

Insignificance

Little compromises lead to big problems.

Lot could not imagine living without the appetites of the flesh that he had come to find comfort and familiarity in. By allowing the desires of his flesh and will to direct his life Lot placed his family back into the danger that God had so recently removed them from.

Vs.21

We ought to be careful what we petition God for… He may give it to us.

Matthew 21:22

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Psalm 106:13-15

13 They soon forgat his works; they waited not for his counsel: 14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. 15 And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

God’s people cannot help but bring God’s mercy.

Vs.22

Compromise blocks God’s plan.

Matthew 13:58

And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

God puts in our hands a great and awesome responsibility.

Matthew 5:14

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Vs.23

Lot entered into Zoar in full view of the people as God began to rain down fire upon Sodom and Gomorrah.

Vs.24

“Then the Lord”

The Lord will always have the last word.

“When man has finished his last chapter, written his last sentence, placed a period at the end of his last line, closed the book, and placed it upon the shelf… Then the Lord.”

Vs.25

A society in full decline has nothing redeemable apart from the righteous souls that still dwell in it. Once they are removed the natural course of God’s holy order will proceed to judgment.

Revelation 5:1-7

1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? 3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. 4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. 5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. 6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. 7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

Vs.26

Lot’s wife no longer had “regard” for her husband.

“Regard”

to look towards; to point or be directed, to attend to with respect and estimation; to value

Lot’s “lingering” in a place of sin and compromise cost him his marriage.

Psalm 28:3, 5

3 Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbors, but mischief is in their hearts. ... 5 Because they regard not the works of the LORD, nor the operation of his hands, he shall destroy them, and not build them up.

When Jesus returns to remove us before final judgment, what will He find us regarding?

Vs.27

Abraham started his day in the place of communion with the Lord.

Do I have a daily place where I go to stand before the Lord?

Vs.28

Genesis 14:21-23

21 And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. 22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, 23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:

Psalm 62:9

Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity.

Vs.29

James 5:16

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Ezekiel 22:30-31

30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. 31 Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD.

God used Abraham’s heart of intercession to forestall the reaping of what Lot had sowed. Lot was given a second chance to turn his life around.

Vs.30

Lot’s desire to “shelter” his daughters was not motivated by faith or even a desire to protect his children; it was motivated by fear and self preservation.

Lot had assumed his home in Sodom was a “safe space” for his family. When he realized he could not keep the influence of the society from affecting his home he then removed his home away from all society. Unfortunately for Lot it was not the location of the home but the heart in the home that was the source of influence.

Vs.31

Lot’s daughters do not even get to be named.

Lot had taught his daughters to fear… but not fear the Lord.

The Word of God is our anchor. Without it, a genuine spiritual “experience” can produce the most crazy of doctrines.

Vs.32

Alcohol and impropriety go hand in hand.

Proverbs 23:31-35

31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. 32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. 33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. 34 Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. 35 They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

From the outside Lot looked like he was sheltering his children, but from the inside it was too late…

Lot thought the solution for his children was to shelter them from all interaction with the world. However, this goes directly against the heart of God. God desires us to be in the world, but just not of the world. For Lot, he could remove his family from the world but he could not remove the world from his family.

You can’t “quarantine” from sin.

Psalm 61:2-4

2 From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. 3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. 4 I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah.

John 17:15

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

John 17:14-18, 20

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. ... 20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.

Vs.36

Clearly these girls have no respect for their father, and how could they… he has shown that he has no respect for them.

Malachi 4:5-6

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: 6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

If we wait for our children to respond before we push into their world… We may be waiting a long time.

Vs.37

Abraham’s intercession for Lot did not result in the immediate fruit that Abraham was hoping to see. In fact, in the short term it would appear almost as if it had been better for Lot to have been left in Sodom to be judged.

However, if not for Abraham’s intercession there would be no Ruth, no David, and no son of David.

Vs.38

God gave Lot a second chance, but instead of “responding” to God’s grace Lot became “despondent” in his self indulgent shame. Lot left a legacy of shame that left a lasting generational effect.

ENDING

What are we to do when we see the influences and wickedness of the world assaulting our families and homes?

What are we to do when we see the influences and wickedness of the world assaulting our families and homes?

- We are not to run from the world but to the Word.

- We are to be in the world with our families, but not without first being in the Word with them.

- We are to shelter our families from the influences of the world, but we do that by teaching them that the Word of God is our refuge.

Proverbs 21:30-31

30 There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD. 31 The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.

Psalm 61:3-4

For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. 4 I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings.