

# The High Cost of Low Living

## Lesson for Sunday, February 11, 2024

### INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Flirting will get you in trouble (especially if you are married)! We know this. But we flirt all the time. We flirt with sin. *Discuss how we flirt with sin...*
  - *Our entertainment choices, how we spend our free time, our associations, etc.*
- ⇒ The story of Sodom and Gomorrah is an Old Testament Classic! But right in the middle of Sodom was a Christian named Lot. What in the world was he doing there?
- ⇒ A better question is: How did Lot get to Sodom in the first place?

### BIBLE STUDY:

1. A Fatal Attraction (Genesis 13-14)
  - a. Abram and Lot had a problem. Each man's servants began arguing over grazing rights.
  - b. This concerned Abram and he graciously allowed his younger nephew to pick his choice of the land.
  - c. Lot made his choice in verses 10-13. *Highlight the phrase at the end of verse 12 and the description of Sodom in verse 13.*
  - d. What do we learn from Lot in this text? It is here we see Lot's first carnal choice.
  - e. First, Lot was weak in his devotions.
    - i. Compare the descriptions of Abram (vs. 2-4) and Lot (vs. 5).
    - ii. Did you see it? Abram had something Lot did not have – an altar.
    - iii. There is no hint in the text that Lot paused to ask the Lord for direction. He didn't wait to hear from the Lord.
    - iv. The idea in the first part of verse 10 indicates that Lot immediately looked around and made his decision.
    - v. Principle: A small step away from God can take you places you can't imagine.
  - f. Second, Lot worldly in his desires (vs. 10).
    - i. Notice that Lot never asked, "Is this a good place to raise our kids?" He was more interested in the cattle.
    - ii. Lot seemed to have two reasons to move toward Sodom.
    - iii. His "religious" reason was that it appeared as "the garden of the Lord."
    - iv. His real reason was that it was "like the land of Egypt." Remember that Egypt is always a picture of the world in our Bibles.
  - g. Third, a man who is weak in his devotions and worldly in his desires will inevitably be wrong in his decisions (vs. 11-13).
    - i. He first separated himself from his Godly uncle.
    - ii. Before long he had his tent pitched toward Sodom.
    - iii. Verse 13 seems like a verse added by the Holy Spirit. Lot had made the wrong choice.
  - h. Things quickly pick up speed at this point. Read Genesis 14:12.
    - i. Remember this biblical principle: One step leads to another.
    - ii. He began facing Sodom. Now he lives in Sodom.
    - iii. What's amazing in this text is that Abram rescues his nephew and what does he do? He goes right back to Sodom.
    - iv. The Bible doesn't tell us why: a nagging wife, worldly children, a desire to make more money, or maybe he thought he could be a positive influence.
    - v. All we know is that he went back.
2. A Frightful Affair (Genesis 19)
  - a. Chapter 19 begins with Lot sitting in the gate of Sodom (vs. 1).
    - i. He had probably become one of Sodom's high officials, charged with upholding its principles.

- ii. It's hard to imagine how corrupt Sodom was at this point. And Lot was one its leaders.
    - iii. It seems that Lot had been accepted by the Sodomites, that he spoke their language and condoned their practices.
  - b. Can you see it? Can you trace the progression? What was one unimaginable is now very real. One step leads to another.
    - i. Have you ever seen this in the life of someone you love?
    - ii. Have you ever seen it in your own life?
  - c. Lot is in deep! He insists on God's messengers to come stay with him (vs. 2-3). What happens next is hard to imagine.
    - i. Simply read verses 4-8 (commentary is hardly required).
    - ii. Lot has given himself completely to the ways of Sodom. He is at the point of offering his daughters to be raped in order to appease the crowd.
  - d. Here's another principle we need to remember: Sin is a cancer. It starts off ever so small, but winds up eating the vital organs of the body.
- 3. A Family Abolished (Genesis 19:15-38)
  - a. God had determined to destroy Sodom but incredibly Lot wasn't anxious to leave.
    - i. Notice verse 16, "while he lingered."
    - ii. This reminds us of another principle: Sin deceives. Sin disables our ability to think straight, logical or biblical.
  - b. God, in His grace, made sure that Lot and his family were escorted out of the coming destruction. But they couldn't escape completely.
    - i. Ignoring a clear warning, Lot's wife looked back to Sodom and the Bible simply says that she became a pillar of salt (vs. 26). Lot lost his wife.
    - ii. Then something happens in verses 30-38 that is difficult to comprehend. *Read these verses and again – not much commentary is required.*
  - c. There are two final principles of sin that these final verses teach us:
    - i. First, Lot took his family out of Sodom, but he couldn't take Sodom out of his family.
    - ii. Second, sin costs. Many times, sin costs us dearly.

APPLICATION: Here are the principles we have emphasized in this lesson. Lead discussion on each and talk about how we can be sure not to violate these principles in our own lives.

- ⇒ A small step away from God can take you places you can't imagine. *How do we stay close to God? How do we make sure we are stepping toward Him and not away?*
- ⇒ One step leads to another.
- ⇒ Sin is a cancer.
- ⇒ Sin deceives. Sin disables our ability to think straight, logical or biblical.
- ⇒ Lot took his family out of Sodom, but he couldn't take Sodom out of his family. *Don't flirt with the world!*
- ⇒ Sin costs.