

Genesis 19

Don't Look Back
10 Lessons from LOT

Make Room

Ge 13:1-8

- **13** So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. ² Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.
- ³ From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier
- ⁴ and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the Lord.
- ⁵ Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents.
- ⁶ But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together.
- ⁷ And quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.
- ⁸ So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. ⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

Standing Apart

These angels, it is likely, were two of the three that had just before been with Abraham, the two created angels that were sent to execute God's purpose concerning Sodom.

Observe here, 1. There was but one good man in Sodom, and these heavenly messengers soon found him out.

Wherever we are, we should enquire out those of the place that live in the fear of God, and should choose to associate ourselves with them.

1. Mt. 10:11, *Enquire who is worthy, and there abide.*
Those of the same country, when they are in a foreign country, love to be together.
2. Lot sufficiently distinguished himself from the rest of his neighbors, at this time, which plainly set a mark upon him.
3. He that did not act like the rest must not fare like the rest.

Check Your Surroundings

1. That they were all wicked, v. 4. Wickedness had become universal, and they were unanimous in any vile design.
2. Here were old and young, and all from every quarter, engaged in this riot; the old were not past it, and the young had soon come up to it.

Not Changed By God's Judgment

They smote them with blindness, v. 11.

1. This was designed, (1.) To put an end to their attempt, and disable them from pursuing it. Justly were those struck blind who had been deaf to reason.
2. Violent persecutors are often infatuated so that they cannot push on their malicious designs against God's messengers, Job 5:14, 15.
3. Yet these Sodomites, after they were struck blind, continued seeking the door, to break it down, till they were tired. No judgments will, of themselves, change the corrupt natures and purposes of wicked men.

Your Connections Matter

II. He is directed to give notice to his friends and relations, that they, if they would, might be saved with him (v. 12): "*Hast thou here any besides, that thou art concerned for? If thou hast, go tell them what is coming.*" Now this implies,

1. The command of a great duty, which was to do all he could for the salvation of those about him, to snatch them as brands out of the fire.

Note, Those who through grace are themselves delivered out of a sinful state should do what they can for the deliverance of others, especially their relations.

2. The offer of great favor. They do not ask whether he knew any righteous ones in the city fit to be spared: no, they knew there were none; but they ask what relations he had there, that, whether righteous or unrighteous, they might be saved with him.

Note, Bad people often fare the better in this world for the sake of their good relations. It is good being akin to a godly man.

Don't Waste Time

He applies himself accordingly to his sons-in-law, v. 14. Observe,

1. The fair warning that Lot gave them: *Up, get you out of this place.*

It was no time to trifle when the destruction was just at the door. They had not forty days to repent in, as the Ninevites had.

Now or never, they must make their escape. At midnight this cry was made. Such as this is our call to the unconverted, to turn and live.

2. The slight they put upon this warning: *He seemed to them as one that mocked.*

Those who lived a merry life, and made a jest of everything, made a jest of this warning, and so they perished in the overthrow.

Many who are warned of the misery and danger they are in by sin make a light matter of it, and think their ministers do but jest with them; such will perish with their blood upon their own heads.

Why Question God (Ge 19:15-26)

¹⁵ With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished.”

¹⁶ When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the Lord was merciful to them.

¹⁷ As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, “Flee for your lives! Don’t look back, and don’t stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!”

¹⁸ But Lot said to them, “No, my lords, please!

¹⁹ Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can’t flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I’ll die. ²⁰ Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it—it is very small, isn’t it? Then my life will be spared.”

²¹ He said to him, “Very well, I will grant this request too; I will not overthrow the town you speak of. ²² But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach it.” (That is why the town was called Zoar. ⁵)

²³ By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. ²⁴ Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the Lord out of the heavens.

²⁵ Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land. ²⁶ But Lot’s wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Don't Look Back

Our Savior refers to it (Lu. 17:32), *Remember Lot's wife*. As by the example of Sodom the wicked are warned to turn from their wickedness, so by the example of Lot's wife the righteous are warned not to turn from their righteousness. See Eze. 3:18, 20. We have here,

The sin of Lot's wife: *She looked back from behind him*.

This seemed a small thing, but we are sure, by the punishment of it, that it was a great sin, and exceedingly sinful.

1. She disobeyed an express command, and so sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, which ruined us all.
2. Unbelief was at the bottom of it; she questioned whether Sodom would be destroyed and thought she might still have been safe in it.
3. She looked back upon her neighbors whom she had left behind with more concern than was fit, now that their day of grace was over, and divine justice was glorifying itself in their ruin. See Isa. 66:24.
4. Probably she hankered after her house and goods in Sodom and was loth to leave them. Christ intimates this to be her sin (Lu. 17:31, 32); she too much regarded her *stuff*.
5. Her looking back evinced an inclination to go back; and therefore, our Savior uses it as a warning against apostasy from our Christian profession. We have all renounced the world and the flesh and have set our faces heaven-ward; we are in the plain, upon our probation; and it is at our peril if we return into the interests we profess to have abandoned. Drawing back is to perdition and looking back is towards it. *Let us therefore fear*, Heb. 4:1.

The Example You Leave

The punishment of Lot's wife for this sin.

1. She was struck dead in the place; yet her body did not fall down, but stood fixed and erect like a pillar, or monument, not liable to waste nor decay, as human bodies exposed to the air are, but metamorphosed into a metallic substance which would last perpetually.
2. Come, behold the goodness and severity of God (Rom. 11:22), towards Lot, who went forward, goodness; towards his wife, who looked back, severity. Though she was nearly related to a righteous man, though better than her neighbors, and though a monument of distinguishing mercy in her deliverance out of Sodom, yet God did not connive at her disobedience; for great privileges will not secure us from the wrath of God if we do not carefully and faithfully improve them.
3. This pillar of salt should season us. Since it is such a dangerous thing to look back, let us always press forward, Phil. 3:13, 14.

What Are You Turning Toward?

When we turn to look our body turns, also.

Faith or Unbelief

Appreciation or Anger

Family or Foes

Relationships or Loneliness

Community or Self

Better or Worse

Building or Destruction

Life or Death