

## LESSONS FROM LOT

Genesis 19:23-38

Lot, together with his wife and his daughters, had only reached Zoar when the Lord poured out His judgment on the wicked cities and overthrew them and all their people. The overthrow was a natural phenomenon brought about by Almighty God at the exact moment necessary for His purposes. The brimstone and fire, which destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, stand as a permanent prototype of the fire which will destroy the world on the day of judgment. The cities are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. The condition of the cities of the plain throughout history until the present day is the example to which this passage refers. The fire burned for only a few hours, but it did so with eternal results. All the inhabitants in their monstrous wickedness were swept to death and judgment.

Lot's wife was greatly attached to Sodom. She did one of the two things that Lot had been warned not to do. She may have been unwilling to believe that destruction would ensue, or she may have wished to take one last look at the city before it was destroyed. Whatever her motive, her action was fatal. She was lost in the catastrophe that overwhelmed the area.

With Lot and his wife both weak, hesitating and yielding, there can be no surprise at what we know of their family life.

Abraham rose early that morning to go to the place where he stood before the Lord. In this respect he is a splendid example for every Christian. Early in the morning all of us ought to stand before the Lord. We do not need any particular place for the purpose, but it is important that we have undisturbed privacy.

As Abraham looked toward the cities he saw a smoke like that of a furnace, and yet with suggestiveness the Word of God indicates that Abraham's prayer was answered so far as his nephew was concerned. "God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow." To Abraham this was a merciful blessing granted in answer to earnest prayer. It was the praying of Abraham which brought about the deliverance of Lot. God had a man outside the city, a pilgrim, a man who was passing through, who was not dwelling in Sodom. God had a man out there who knew how to pray, and Lot was delivered from Sodom by this man who lived outside the city. When God delivered Lot He was remembering His servant Abraham. You do not know how many times God has protected you from some danger or disaster because some Christian prayed for you. Don't you see it was a good thing for Lot that there was a man of God praying for him? "God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow."

Lot went out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountain. Thus he did of his own accord what the angels had advised him to do at the beginning. He

was allowed to do what he wanted, but even that did not satisfy him. Due to a lack of faith in God's promises, Lot was a prey to fears and anxieties.

The scene portrayed in the closing verses of this chapter is one of unutterable shame and unspeakable sorrow. The unchaste suggestion of Lot's oldest daughter, however, is typical of a woman brought up in the atmosphere of Sodom. Lot certainly had not thought of what he was exposing his children to when he decided to make that wicked city his home. The disrespect here shown to their father by these two daughters can scarcely be wondered at in view of the callous suggestion which he himself had made with regard to them in verse eight. No father, who would contemplate such a course in reference to his daughters, could expect affection or respect from them. In the reference to the fact that Lot was old, two things may have been involved. They may have meant that at his death they would be left alone and unprovided for, if they did not rear children. Or, they may have meant that what they were contemplating must be done without delay due to the age of their father. Weak Lot was in the power of his unscrupulous daughters. Drunkenness and impurity were the result.

We observe here the awful extent of human depravity. This is one of the most terrible stories in the Bible. It is a reminder of the hideous possibilities of sin, and the extent to which evil can take hold of human nature. When the restraints of the divine law are removed there are scarcely any limits to human degeneracy and depravity.

While in a drunken stupor Lot allowed himself to commit an act which almost outSodomed Sodom. Lot sounded the depths of shame and ended his days in disgrace.

There are some lessons from Lot for us. One is that his dangers may easily be ours also. His first danger was from things lawful. It was not wrong to desire a good place for his flocks and herds. The sin was in putting earthly ease and prosperity first. It is not wrong to have possessions; it is only wrong to let possessions have us. A ship in the water is perfectly right, but the water in the ship would be entirely wrong. The Christian in the world is right and necessary, but the world in the Christian is wrong and disastrous. Another danger of Lot's was that of compromise. At first he pitched his tent towards Sodom, but soon entered the city and stayed there until he fled as a fugitive. He doubtless thought he could testify to the wicked people, but his words were nothing without deeds. A Christian must be outside Sodom in order to testify against it. To go into the world to influence it is futile and fatal. A third danger that Lot incurred was worldliness. Some are utterly unable to bear worldly success. It affects their character and their home life. This worldliness endangered his happiness. It is always so with those who do not put God first. Those who put God second are the most miserable of men.