

Sermon Title: Sin's Slippery Slope

Sermon Text: **Genesis 19:12-29**

Destruction came to Sodom & Gomorrah just as the Lord said it would, & only Lot & his daughters escaped... barely... thanks to the 2 angels of the Lord!

Left to themselves, Lot & His entire family, would've been swept away with the rest of the city, because **they failed to take God & His Word seriously!**

Lot was told to get his family & go, but what was lacking was the fear of the Lord

Vs. 14 - "So Lot went out and said to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, 'Up! Get out of this place, for the Lord is about to destroy the city.' But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting." It was the right message, but...

The Hebrew word for "jesting" can also be translated "joking", "laughing", "mocking"! **How could this possibly be perceived as a joking matter?**

How often do we too make light of sin & deny the reality of its consequences?

Vs. 15-16 - "As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, 'Up! Take your wife and two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city. But he lingered...'"

Why would Lot linger? **He either didn't think God would actually do such a thing, or he thought he had more time.** Oh... you meant right now, God?

Do we ever linger around sin longer than we ought to? Do we ever fall into the same trap of thinking that God's mercy won't allow for His justice to prevail?

Lot & his family were about to learn a very important lesson, and some of them would not live to tell about it. Destruction was immanent! **Judgment on sin was coming, and some would receive God's justice, and others mercy!**

Lot's wife was also included in those who lost their lives b/c she didn't heed the message of God. **Vs. 17 - "Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away."**

Why did Lot's wife look back? The scripture here in Genesis doesn't tell us, but it can be implied that **the pull towards what was being left behind was stronger than the pull towards trusting God & being obedient to His Word!**

How many of us would have looked back (Lot's wife)? Would have lingered (Lot)? Would have not taken this seriously (sons-in-law)? **This reveals an unhealthy view of God, a distrust in His Word, and misplaced affections!**

Even Lot's "obedience" came only after being forced out by the angels. And then, rather than heading to the hills like God commanded him to go, Lot pleads with the angels for God to alter the plan.

Vs. 18-20 - "Lot said to them, 'Oh, no, my lords. Behold your servant has found favor in your sight, & you have shown me great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me & I die...'"

Was Lot concerned about his physical ability to escape? If God had spared him to this point, why wouldn't God see to it that Lot would make it to the hills? It's more likely that **Lot just didn't want to go as far as God was calling him to go!**

Isn't that true of us as well? **God calls us to radical obedience, but we too prefer only small increments of change, and at a pace that we get to control!**

- St. Augustine's prayer - "Lord, make me good/chaste - but not yet!"

Why do we flirt with destruction by staying in too close proximity to sin? Shouldn't we rather run as fast & as far away from sin as possible? *H.C. #89*

Jesus said there are 2 paths - one that leads to destruction (it is wide & highly traveled), & another that is narrow & difficult, but it leads to life!

Lot chose early on in the story to walk the path of destruction - **Genesis 13:8-13**
To think that sin won't rub off on us when we allow ourselves to be immersed in it, is foolish & destructive - just ask Lot & his family!

It was also telling, early on, when the sexual mob came to Lot's house to demand that he turn the men (angels) over to them to have sexual relations, that Lot said, **"I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly" - 19:7.**

Lot was so immersed in this wicked city that he called these men "brothers". What about us? How comfortable do we let ourselves get around sin & affiliate ourselves with those whose actions are not becoming of a follower of Jesus?

We live in a broken/fallen world, but we are called to be light in the darkness Is our light shining bright or is it being snuffed out by sin & the forces of evil?

Sin is a slippery slope, that entraps us in a pit of darkness (the devil's bathtub)! Without God's help we too will slip, like Lot & his family did, & risk becoming completely undistinguishable from those living in total darkness!

This is why we need Christ! We must respond to the S.S.S. by turning to the S.O.S. call of the gospel! He will hear us, rescue us, forgive us, & free us to live as agents of light - that pierces the darkness with a transformed life!

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