

Genesis: From Creation to New Creation

Genesis 19:1-38

"God's Mercy and Judgement"—February 5, 2023



Introduction

Jesus taught us that there are two ways to live. There is a narrow path and a wide path. ([Matthew 7:13-14](#)) Trusting God as Ruler is the narrow path and deciding for ourselves what is good and bad, right and wrong is the wide path. Choosing the narrow path will have its difficulties, but it leads to life. Yet when we look over and see the wide path we may wonder sometimes "Is it that bad?" It looks like they are having a good time.

As we look at Genesis 19, we should remember Genesis 13. Abraham and Lot were living together, and it got crowded. They decided to separate, and Lot was given the first choice of a place to go. He saw Sodom. He knew that the men of Sodom were wicked, but he saw the land. He saw the potential. First, he moved near Sodom. Time goes on. Then in Genesis 14, Lot moves into the city. Would Sodom deliver the promise of the good life that Lot was looking for? Can we, today, keep one foot on the narrow path and the other on the wide and easy path for the best of both worlds? No; you cannot serve two masters. ([Matt. 6:24](#))

Genesis 19 is a hard, dark chapter, but from it we can see a merciful warning from a God who wants to bless us.

Big Idea: Avoid the world's seductive promise of the good life because it ends in death.

Sermon Outline

1. Scene One: The evil deeds in darkness (vs. 1-14)
2. Scene Two: God's righteousness in the light of day (vs. 15-29)
3. Scene Three: The tragic end of compromise (Vs. 30-38)

Read & Discuss

1. Read vs. 1-14

Lot was sitting at the city gate. He was in an important position as a civic leader. It looked like he had achieved the success that he hoped to achieve.

The angels come to warn Lot of Sodom's impending destruction. Sodom has crept into Lot's heart; he wants to fit in. He is troubled by the sin that he sees, but he responds to sin in a sinful way. We shouldn't just look at Lot and shake our finger. We should consider Lot as a mirror. Are there ways that you are troubled by evil in this world? How do you respond? ([Romans 12:21](#)) Do you blame, rationalize, or excuse sin? Every time we are tempted to sin, God will provide a way of escape. ([1 Corinthians 10:13](#))

The people of Sodom had normalized their sin, and God was about to judge. What was the sin of Sodom? One of the aspects was their sexual immorality. [Ezekiel 16:49-50](#) tells us that the sin of Sodom was a social sin - pride, excess of food, and prosperity. They put themselves and their desires on the throne. At the root, the sin of Sodom was their pride and a rejection of God as God. They bowed down to worship the idol of self. The issue is authority. Who determines right or wrong? [Psalm 115](#) teaches us that we become like the thing that we worship. What do you love? What do you treasure most in life? What do you center your life around? What do you worship?

Additional Reading: *Genesis 13, 14, and 18; Romans 1*

2. Read vs. 15-29

Lot was warned, but he lingered. The angels have to physically remove him from the city, and rather than immediate obedience, Lot argued with them. He wanted to go to Zoar. Here, we see the grip of Sodom on Lot's heart. He tried to rationalize his excuse by saying that it's a "little" city. Do you excuse your sin by saying that it's just a little one? When it comes to repentance, there is no compromise. A little sin affects the whole person as well as those around them. ([Galatians 5:9](#)) We must go to war with our sin.

Lot's wife looked back. This was more than a glance. She was standing there, looking at Sodom and didn't go with Lot. She was overtaken by the sulfur and fire and became a pillar of salt. Why does she look back? Lot's wife looked back because her heart was still in Sodom. ([Luke 17:32-33](#)) She wanted to preserve that life. Are

there ways that you may be trying to preserve a lifestyle that follows the wide path? We don't want to love the world or the things in the world ([1 John 2:15](#)), but we want to enjoy God's good gifts.

Four encouragements:

- Pray [Psalm 139:23-24](#)
- Don't just attend church, be the church. Reach out to other church members and confess your sin and have them hold you accountable. Have other brothers and sister to warn you of your blind spots.
- Read the Bible daily. Read it like light that convicts you. Respond in obedience.
- Cultivate a superior love. This undergirds the first three. Don't just do these things to check them off of a list. Do them in order to love God. Keep seeking and knocking until your heart is satisfied with the love of God.

Why was Lot spared? Lot was rescued NOT because he was a good person. He was rescued because of God's mercy. Lot's wickedness was bad, but it didn't go unpunished. Jesus drank the cup of God's wrath against Lot's sin and ours. God's righteous judgment is coming, but those who turn from their sin and trust Christ receive God's mercy. ([Romans 4:22-24](#))

Additional Reading: Romans 3-4

3. Read vs. 30-38

Did Sodom deliver the good life? Lot ended up living in a cave, drunk, and sexually violated by his daughters. If you doubt that God is good, you will read chapter 19 as offensive. If you believe that God is good all the time, we can read chapter 19 for what it is - a merciful warning from a God who loves us and wants to bless us. He has something far better than Sodom.

Out of all of this there is a son named Moab. His descendants, the Moabites, caused a lot of problems for the Israelites. But God used the Moabites in the lineage of Jesus. (The book of Ruth)

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

Next week's sermon text: we turn to Luke 15:11-32 "How Deep the Father's Love"
