

Finishing Well

Lesson #26 Enemies That War in My Soul: Girgashites July 21, 2021
Turning Back Spirit

One who turns back from a pilgrimage = Turning Back Spirit

Drag you away from God and/or pluck you out of your place of destiny

This spirit will team up with any other wicked spirit to get you, of your own free will and decision, to give up and turn back to the world, the flesh, and to Satan.

- Leads you from focusing on heavenly, eternal things or things ABOVE.
- Your focus will be on what can be SEEN and VISIBLE.
- Concentrates on material gain and wealth - covets the momentary, not eternal things
- Driven by the lust of the eye; what appears good; sensual; walk by sight, not by faith

Scripture warns: It is possible for a follower of Christ to be conformed to the world in such a way that it is hard to distinguish him. Paul said this to the Corinthian church:

I Cor. 3:1-3 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. ² I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. ³ For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

Truth: Many Christians never completely shed the garment of the world, but instead, become more entrenched in it. Ensnared by a Girgashite spirit, one can drown in his own vomit.

- Was Lot saved?

II Pet. 2:7-8 And delivered just Lot, vexed [worn down] with the filthy conversation [lifestyle] of the wicked: ⁸ (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed [tormented] his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

- Lot lived far below his privileges and was out of fellowship with the Lord.

Lot's Departure from Abram

Gen. 13:1-5 And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south. ² And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

³ And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai; ⁴ Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

⁵ And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

- Lot had a tent but NO altar. He did not call on the Lord for wisdom in making decisions.
- Up out of Egypt: came out physically but Egypt was still in his heart

⁶ And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

Note: Abraham, foresees a danger of a falling out and proposes they should separate. [13:8-9]

- Wisdom from above is first pure and then peaceable.

Rom. 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Abram's offer is very generous, but Lot, in his greed, took full advantage of it.

Gen 13:10-11 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. ¹¹ Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

- Instead of lifting up his eyes to heaven, Lot lifted up his eyes to the plain of Jordan and stopped there. The eyes see what the heart loves. Walking by sight
- Does not use wisdom from above [no altar]; analytical thinking like natural man
- Lot brought with him out of Egypt something besides "herds and flocks."
- Lot contracted the spirit of Egypt and acquired a taste for its "fleshpots."

Clinging To Egypt: You cannot grasp the perishable in one hand and the imperishable in the other. Eventually you have to let go of one to grasp the other. Which is worth grasping with both hands?

Truth: Walking by sight is the cause of most of our failures and sorrows.

Gen. 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat,
Joshua 7:21 When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them...

Eve, Lot, Achan: I Saw I Coveted I Took

Rom. 13:14b make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

Note: The heart of every problem is the problem in the heart. Lot's heart was centered on wealth and worldly achievement, while Abraham wanted only to please the Lord.

If Abram chooses to walk by faith and Lot chooses to walk by sight, it is impossible for Lot to remain with Abram.

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

- Abram endured as seeing Him who is invisible.
- Lot's heart was set upon the things he could see now - - the temporary.
- They could not dwell together - - a moral impossibility

Note: Lot lifted up his eyes. This was the beginning of a decline which led to a tragic end.

- The eye-gate is one of the avenues through which temptations attack our soul.

I John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Covetousness—an insatiable appetite for more things—leads to all kinds of evil [I Tim. 6:10]. In order to get more money, people will lie [Prov. 21:6], mistreat people [22:16], cheat [28:8], and even trouble their own families [15:27].

Robert South: "Covetousness is both the beginning and the end of the devil's alphabet, the first vice in corrupt nature that moves, and the last which dies."

Gen. 13:12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.

Lot: He chose the land like the land of Egypt [Gen. 13:10]. He was still attached to Egypt [the world and all it had to offer] in his heart. [Spirit that hovers over new or carnal Christians]

Gen. 13:13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

I Sam. 16:7 The Lord sees not as man sees.

Lot > the plain appeared "well-watered and as the garden of the Lord..."

God > the cities of the plain were inhabited by people who were "wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly."

Genesis 14: God, who is faithful, gives Lot a very definite warning.

The Evil Empire: 14:1-4 Group of 4

- Chedorlaomer king of Elam Persia/Iran
- Amraphel king of Shinar Babylon/Iraq
- Arioch king of Ellasar Lebanon ?
- Tidal king of nations Possibly an empire of small nations

These were all part of a coalition based on the Satanic empire of Nimrod, "mighty predator before the Lord" who founded Babylon, Nineveh and other great ancient cities.

He also built the Tower of Babel.

- This was a very oppressive regime based on star worship, magic and sorcery.

The 5 Foolish Kings Of The Valley Of Siddim

- Bera King of Sodom
- Birsha King of Gomorrah
- Shinab King of Admah
- Shemeber King of Zeboiim
- Zoar King of Bela

³ All these were joined together in the vale of Siddim, which is the salt sea. [Dead Sea]

- The 5 foolish kings of Sodom and Gomorrah were "small fry" but were very wealthy heads of city-states involved in trade.
- They served Chedorlaomer for 12 years and rebelled against him in year 13.
- The 4 Kings of the Evil Empire destroyed 7 cities BEFORE they had the war with the 5 foolish kings of the valley of Siddim.
- After they destroyed the 7 cities, the 4 evil kings made war with the 5 foolish kings.
- Sodom & Gomorrah were attacked, defeated and taken captive by a confederation of kings. They took the goods of Sodom & Gomorrah with LOT and other people.

Abraham armed 318 of his trained servants born in his house and went after them.

- Abraham's 318 trained men attacked at night and chased Chedorlaomer's huge imperial army northward for nearly 300 miles!
- Abraham liberated all of Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.
- Abraham's God was greater than those of the Persians and Babylonians and of Nimrod's occultic practices.

➤ A supernatural victory resulted in him bringing back the goods, the people and Lot.
[Recall: Abram: up out of Egypt, tent, altar, called on name of the Lord, wisdom from above]
YET, this experience FAILED to teach Lot the evil of being associated with the world.

He recovered his freedom and his property Only To Return To Sodom!!

Wow! Even God's providential dealings are insufficient to move Lot's heart.

Note: Abram risked his life for Lot. He knew the choices Lot made and still pursued him.

- Lot was a prisoner of war; held captive by the enemy
- Abram's actions point to Jesus Christ who rescues us.

Abraham's Offering To The LORD

A. Gen. 18:1-8 The LORD and 2 of His angels visit Abraham. Notice how Abraham ministered.

1. Abraham served the LORD personally.

Abraham was 99 years old and a wealthy sheikh. He could have entrusted this task to his chief steward or one of his more than 300 servants [14:14].

2. Abraham, a man of faith, ministered immediately. Faith does not delay in serving the Lord. Only after he had served his guests did Abraham stand still [v. 8].

3. Abraham served the Lord generously and gave Him the best that he had.

4. Abraham's service was marked with humility.

➤ Gen. 18:2 Bowed to his guests

➤ Gen. 18:3, 5 Called himself a servant - Stood near to be available if needed

5. Abraham served the LORD cooperatively and involved the ministries of others.

D.L. Moody: "I would rather put ten men to work than do the work of ten men."

Abraham's Intimacy With God: [altar to God]

Gen. 18:16-33 The LORD makes known to Abraham His plan regarding Sodom/Gomorrah.

➤ The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him. [Ps. 25:14]

➤ The 2 angels who accompanied the Lord to Abram's tent go on toward Sodom while the Lord remains with Abram who intercedes on behalf of the "righteous" who may be in the doomed city.

Genesis 19: Lot has lived in Sodom about 20 years.

B. Gen. 19:1-3 Notice how Lot ministers to the 2 angels

The 2 angels find Lot sitting in the gate of Sodom. He bowed himself with his face to the ground.

False Humility Stinks! Lot bowed himself to 2 angels but would not bow to God's command for sexual holiness.

He offers them his hospitality, but they refuse and say they will abide in the street all night.

➤ Their reluctance to enter Lot's dwelling is in sharp contrast to their fellowship with Abram. This indicates the condition of Lot's soul.

³And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him and entered into his house; and he made them a meal, and did bake unleavened bread [essentially crackers], and they did eat.

➤ Not generous in his hospitality

Mal. 1:6-10 God rejects their offerings. They offered the blind and the crippled.

He essentially says, "Would you give that to your governor? Then I will not accept it either!"

Consider David's heart: "I will not give the Lord what cost me nothing." [II Sam. 24:24]

Consider: Friends of God give Him their best. Friends of the world offer Him their scraps.

Note: Lot's Lack of Intimacy with God: Did not reveal His plan to Lot [no altar]

Note: God never goes to Lot's home. He stays with Abraham, as Abraham intercedes for Sodom.

It wasn't so much about Lot's location. Daniel lived and worked in Babylon. Joseph lived and worked in Egypt. Lot's problem was that Sodom was in his heart.

He lived a compromised Christian life. The world affected him, instead of him affecting the world, and because of his worldliness, he lacked intimacy with God.

Even though Lot was a believer, his life was such that the Lord did not feel "at home" with him.

- Separated believers enjoy the close walk [II Cor. 6:14-18] & communion [John 14:21-24] with the Lord.
- Greek scholar Kenneth Wuest translated Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:17 "that Christ might finally settle down and feel completely at home in your hearts through your faith."

Gen. 19:4-11 ALL the men of the city come to Lot's house. They desired to have homosexual relations with the angels. They wanted to "know" them = carnal sense; sexually

- Lot condemned them: Do not act so wickedly
- He offers his 2 daughters to the men for sexual purposes. The men refuse the women.

Consider: Before the pressure of this event, Lot looked "godly" and outwardly moral.

He offered hospitality and tried to protect the visitors. When the pressure came, he compromised and offered his daughters!

- Trials reveal what is in the heart.

Gen. 19:12-13 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place:

¹³ For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.

Gen. 19:14 Lot relays the warning to his family. Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!"

Quote: In those twilight hours before sunrise, Sodom saw more missionary activity from Lot than in all the previous years. His efforts were not trained upon the men of the city, however, but were a frantic and futile effort to save his own family, whom he had neglected to win.

- The powerlessness of his testimony is revealed in the response by his sons-in-law when he warned them: The Lord is about to destroy the city!

They said: "he seemed as one who mocked." [Gen. 19:14]

- His words had no weight because of his previous ways.

Quote: Morning came without one new convert, let alone one righteous soul who would flee the wrath of God.

Gen. 19:15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

Gen. 19:16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth and set him without the city.

- Laid hold = hazaq = strong grip; overpower
- Shows where his heart and affections lay

Gen. 19:17-19 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my LORD:

Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

First Mention Principle: Merciful [vs. 16] Mercy [vs. 19]

Lot neither deserved nor wanted God's mercy at first. God was merciful to Lot in spite of:

A. His Foolish Striving Gen. 13:7-11

He abandoned his spiritual leadership when he did not have enough spirituality and discernment to live outside of Abraham's spiritual leadership.

B. His Failing Safeguards Gen. 14:12

His carelessness, his lack of preparation, and his lack of seriousness caused his vulnerable family to fall into enemy hands.

C. His Filthy Surroundings Gen. 19:1-9

II Peter states that Lot was uncomfortable with the wicked, ungodly and filthy surroundings. But, he stayed and let his family grow up in that. YET - God was merciful.

Thou Hast Magnified Thy Mercy...God has magnified His mercy to me...

I. People that are PRAYING for you Gen. 18:22-33

Abraham was on his face before God, interceding for him and his family.

- We have no indication that Lot was praying for himself or his family.

II. People that are PROTECTING you Gen. 19:12-13

Lot and his family did not meet the threshold of 10 righteous people necessary to keep God from destroying Sodom and Gomorrah.

By sending the 2 angels to warn them, God was magnifying His mercy toward Lot and his family. Even after witnessing the deplorable actions of Lot in verse 8, they still tried to protect him.

Lam.3:22-23 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning. Great is Thy faithfulness.

III. People that are PULLING you Gen. 19:15-16

- 2 angels are literally dragging Lot and his family out of the city of Sodom.

Note: God pointed out the mercy of God in the middle of v. 16!

After being spared by the two angels, Lot argues and barterers with them.

Gen. 19:20-22 Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one:

Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.

- He begged to be allowed to go his own way and keep a bit of his old way of life intact.

Derek Kidner: "Not even brimstone will make a pilgrim of him: he must have his little Sodom again if life is to be supportable."

²¹ And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken.

God didn't prevent him. The Lord will let you hang onto your sinful way if you insist on it.

- God accepted Lot's whining request to disregard His instruction for Lot's infantile desire.
- God may let you have your way, but you will cost yourself trouble.
- Your ideas, if God allows them for a hard heart, will never work like His wisdom.

²² Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there."

The inhabitants of the cities of the plain had no idea this new day would be the last day of their lives. Life was going on as usual, and then the fire fell.

Gen. 19:23-26 The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar.

²⁴ Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. ²⁵ So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

- She died within steps of safety.

Gen. 19:30-38 depict the final state of Lot, the carnal, infantile Christian.

- He moved from sitting at the gate of the city to sitting in a cave.
- Retreating from the world in seclusion is not the solution for our worldly lusts.
- Seclusion is no substitute for sanctification.
- In a drunken stupor, he became the father of 2 nations, both of which would be a continual plague and enemy to Israel.

Moab and Ammon were destined to provide the worst carnal seduction in the history of Israel [Baal-Peor, Num. 25] and the cruelest religious perversion [Molech, Lev. 18:21]

Lot attempted to live his life in a city and then in a cave. We cannot become one with the world, but neither are we to flee from it. The proper balance between the city of Sodom and the cave is the tent of Abraham. We are to live in the world without becoming attached to it or conformed to it. We are to be strangers and pilgrims.

I Pet. 2:11-12 Beloved, I urge you as foreigners and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul. ¹² Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God on the day of visitation.

- Some lost people reject the Word because of the inconsistent lives of professed believers.
- Do you walk the talk?

Lot's Tragic End

- He was a recipient of God's magnified mercies and he squandered it!
- He was sinned, stripped of everything and traumatized by the severe discipline of the Lord.
- His earthly life was a wretched failure, made up entirely of "wood, hay and stubble."
- He was saved by the grace of God but saved so as through fire. [I Cor. 3:15]
- He was snatched as "brand from the burning."

Lot, who tried to gain it all, lost it all. By the grace of God and by the skin of his teeth, Lot was saved. But his life was wasted from an eternal point of view.

We are reminded of Paul's teaching about the judgment of believers in I Cor. 3:11-15:

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort [quality] it is. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

- At the Judgment Seat of Christ, some believers will be rewarded for their faithfulness on earth, while others barely escape the fire.

II Cor. 5:10 Paul said, I make it my aim to please Him. For we must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.