

What is significant about Lot sitting in the gateway of the city? He had become entrenched in Sodom's politics—the governing council of elders sat at the gate. He was fully integrated. He was now a Sodomite. He wasn't just a spectator.

Application: Lot made a lot of mistakes that we can learn from. There's probably a little bit of Lot in all of us. We want the best of both worlds. We want to be liked by them, dress like them, be cool. We want to walk with one foot in the secular world and one foot in our Christian world. Hopefully as we mature, we'll spend less time with one foot in the secular world.

How do you deal with this pull of the world? It's a matter of the heart. Ask God to show you what areas of your life look like Lot. The lure of the world cannot be successfully dealt with in our own strength. A God-sized solution is required.

Why did Lot not want the visitors to go to the square? Perhaps a hospitality issue. But he also knew the dangers of the square. In any other city, sleeping in the city square would not have been unusual or unwise.

A bunch of men surrounded the house. What specific sin is in view here? Rampant homosexuality.

What is God's attitude toward homosexuality? He condemns it. It is not just an alternative lifestyle.

- "If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads." (Leviticus 20:13)
- "Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Corinthians 6:9b-10

What should be our attitude toward homosexuals? They are sinners in need of a savior, just like any lost person.

What does Lot's response (offered his daughters to the crowd) tell you about him? He was not a man of character. He was self-focused. Hospitality was more sacred than sexual morality to Lot. He was concerned about his reputation among the Sodomites.

What was the attitude of the men of the city toward Lot? Contemptuous and judgmental. They considered him an outsider.

The sons-in-law do not take Lot seriously. They thought he was joking. What does their response say about their relationship with Lot? He had no credibility or reputation for being different in any way. What a rebuke to the witness of Lot.

Note: In the final analysis Lot was literally dragged from the city by the angels. His heart was in Sodom.

Application: In the midst of a crisis—family, career, neighborhood, etc.—will we have a testimony? Will we know for being different in any way? The groundwork has to be laid long before the crisis.

Consider Sodom's sins described in Ezekiel 16:49-50: "Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen." Their sins included pride, gluttony, apathy, and idleness, as well as homosexuality.

Was Lot saved? Consider 2 Peter 2:7-8 (God)" rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)." In spite of his behavior, Lot's salvation was not based on his worthiness or performance. It was based on a relationship initiated by God. Lot's salvation was clearly in spite of himself, not because of his works.

Lot still had to deal with the consequences of his sin which were significant. What did Lot end up losing? His testimony, wife, sons-in-law, friends, property, character, and life's work

Why did God save Lot from this destruction? Lot was saved, not for his own sake, but for Abraham's (Genesis 19:29). Lot's salvation was not due to his faithfulness, but because Abraham interceded for him. The same principle holds true for Christians today. We are saved, not on account of our faithfulness, but because of the One Who intercedes for us, Jesus Christ, our great high priest.

What was Abraham's attitude toward Lot? Abraham never was harsh on Lot, never judged him, he loved him unconditionally. There is no indication that Abraham ever saw Lot again or that Abraham ever received any word of Lot's escape. So far as Abraham knew, Lot probably perished in the catastrophe.

Application: Just like Lot we have to live in the world. What are some practical ways you can best co-exist and have credibility with the people of this world? Be salt and light to a dying world. Don't be surprised or get angered by their sin, but show them you care with no underlying agenda. Be real. Build relationships.

How would you describe Lot's daughters and his relationship with them? Lack of trust and respect

Why did the daughters lie with Lot? To preserve the family line

Note: Here we have the rebirth of Sodom in the cave. This is a classic example of situational ethics—Lot's daughters seducing their father. The end justifies the means. Situational ethics often boils down to a failure to believe in the sovereignty of God.

What was the end result of this incestuous encounter? Moabites and Ammonites, perennial enemies of Israel

Does it remind you of anyone else who else took matters in their own hands to provide an heir? Sarah—with Hagar

Application: What lessons does the Lord want us to learn from this scenario? Message from God: "I don't need help. Trust in me. Don't try to manipulate the people or events of your world. I don't need your help or interference getting you where I want you."

Are there any similarities between Sodom and our society today? The similarities between Sodom and our society today are distressing. Immorality and perversion are rampant. Homosexuality is always considered sin in the Bible—not an alternative lifestyle.

Application: The story of Lot and his family should provide a sobering reminder that all of our decisions are significant, especially that of where we live. Our moral environment significantly influences our lives. The New Testament constantly implores the believer to fellowship with those of like precious faith.

- "Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character'." (1 Corinthians 15:33)
- "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common?" (2 Corinthians 6:14a)
- "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever." (1 John 2:15-17)

What are some of the differences between Lot and Abraham?

- Lot, at best, was halfhearted in his relationship with God. Abraham had a growing intimacy, evidenced by his intercession for Lot.
- Lot cared mostly for himself, even to the point of sacrificing his daughters. Abraham cared more for others, evidenced by his generosity in giving Lot the choice of the land and in interceding with God for Lot's deliverance.
- Lot was a man who failed to learn from divine discipline. Abraham made many mistakes (sins), but he learned from them.
- 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, but without becoming attached to it or conformed to it.

Nagging Question: After being rescued, why didn't Lot see the error of his ways and go back to Abraham? With Abraham he would have been welcomed, there could have been fellowship, encouragement, and perhaps the possibility of some God-fearing husbands for his daughters. Bottom line: Lot's heart was in Sodom.