



Northside Proclaimer

Proclaiming The Word Of The Lord

1 Thessalonians 1.8

Northside Church Of Christ Welcomes You!

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Lingering Lot

Bryan Garlock

Moses recorded, "As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city." But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city" (Genesis 19.15-16)

This was the event of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah as foretold to Abraham by Jehovah. In Genesis chapter eighteen Abraham pleaded with the Lord to spare the sinful city of Sodom and Gomorrah if He could find just ten righteous people (Genesis 13.13; 18.20-32).

Fast forwarding to Genesis chapter nineteen, the angels of the Lord went to the city to evaluate the number of righteous as promised by God (Genesis 18.32; 19.1-2). While they were staying in Lot's house, the men of Sodom became curious of his visitors. This curiosity became so forceful that the angels had to rescue him from the mob of angry, violent men (vv9-11). This clearly was enough evidence for the Lord to continue with His plans of destruction. Next, the angels warned Lot of the forthcoming events and the urgency of the situation (vv12-13). Now that we have recalled the events of Sodom and Gomorrah, let's make a few applications.

First, we are told that Lot lingered as the angels told him to flee from the city. Interestingly, this is very similar to that of today's time. We have been given instructions on how to be saved and how to receive abundant blessings from the Father above and yet the majority just *lingers* around not obeying the commandments of the Lord (For example see Acts 24.24-27). There are many reasons why Lot would linger. For instance, he could have allowed his possessions to be a stumbling block. He could have been worried about his city, family and friends, home, cattle, etc. Though these are earthly treasures that should not take priority over spiritual things (Matthew 6.19-34), this type of unwillingness to act is certainly seen in others (see Mark 10.17-22). Next, Lot could have allowed his emotions to get the best of him. Perhaps he pondered: "How could a loving God destroy my city?" Thus with misguided emotions he lingered. It could also be argued that Lot demonstrated a lack of faith and trust in God. How many times have we hesitated from accomplishing the Lord's work because of a lack of faith and trust? For instance, maybe we know of a brother or sister who is spiritually sick and instead of restoring them (Gal. 6.1), we linger around hoping that time will fix their status with the Lord. We may have our reasons: "I don't want to hurt their feelings," "They will be mad at me," etc. Yet, have we put our trust in the Lord and done as He has instructed? As there was a day of reckoning for Sodom and Gomorrah, we can be assured there will be a day coming for the ungodly. We must restore a sin-sick brother before it's eternally too late!

There could be many other reasons why our friend Lot lingered, and the same can be true for today. However, as there is nothing that should hinder us from being baptized (Acts 8.36), there is nothing that should cause us to linger.

Northside
church Of Christ

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Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us.
- Call or email me to add announcements, thanks.
- Men's Bible study today at 3:30 PM

Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Aug 9 Jer 7-9
Aug 10 Jer 10-13
Aug 11 Jer 14-17
Aug 12 Jer 18-22
Aug 13 Jer 23-25
Aug 14 Jer 26-29
Aug 15 Jer 30-31

In Luke 17.28-30, Jesus warned the Jews, "Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed." Each time we put off obedience to the Lord we are playing with fire!

Second, in Genesis 19.14, we read, "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." Jestling is defined as joking, not to be taken serious, or a thing said or done for amusement. This point draws us back to the story of Noah. As the sons-in-law didn't listen to the warnings, neither did the people in Noah's time. God told Noah to build an ark. Though the Bible is silent on this matter, there is a good possibility that Noah was mocked, laugh at, and made out to be a fool. Some may have said, "Oh Noah, stop jesting with us, there is no flood coming!" I can hear Lot's son-in-laws now, "Oh Lot, stop jesting with us, God isn't going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah!" And so it was as we read in Luke 28.26-27 that the crowd continued with everyday life, "...in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all." Unlike Lot, however, Noah did not linger, but "...moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household" (Heb. 11.7). Finally, Peter declared, "...scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation" (2 Peter 3.3-4). The Bible affirms that just as the people of old were warned and destroyed, so shall those of today that laugh, mock, and believe the Bible is a joke and that Christ is the jester.

Finally, there were not even ten righteous people in this wicked city of Sodom and Gomorrah. According to Genesis 19.15, there were four: Lot, his wife, and two daughters. The Bible is silent on any others who may have been spared. Since God keeps His promises, if there had been ten righteous people the city would have been spared. This is similar to the account of Noah where only eight souls were saved from destruction (1 Peter 3.20; 2 Peter 2.5). In both events the people were wicked and had no interest in serving God and therefore were both destroyed. However, there were just a few who were obedient and saved. Likewise there are people today who are wicked and lack any interest at all in serving the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Though these people will not have a physical destruction, their souls will be damned to all eternity. As we read in Matthew 7.13-14, these disobedient people will be lead to destruction through a "wide gate and broad way." However, if we remain faithful to the Lord we can have confidence in our salvation as Lot and Noah did. The Bible tells us only a few will do so. Are we of that number?

Obviously there are a lot of applications that one can make from the story of Lot. If you are a child of God, but haven't been faithful, remember the admonition of 2 Peter 3.14: "...be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace." Don't linger around; repent today! If you are not a Christian and are still lingering in sin, don't ignore the warnings—believe, repent, confess and be baptized without delay! BG