

Drawn in By Sin

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

How do you look at sin? Should a person take it seriously or figure that it is no big deal? Someone told me once, "What you think is wrong may not be wrong to me." I know some people think that if they like something, then it is alright. You and I do not decide what is sin and what is not, God does.

In **Judges 17:6**, "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes." This was one of the times in Israel when each man set his own standard for living. What God had said was forgotten as each one followed his own desires. This course of action brought God's anger upon the nation. It was wrong then and will bring the same results today, to America or any other nation.

Sin caters to the flesh and/or to the pride of a person. In such a case a person feeds the desires of the flesh and is a slave to their own body. We are to rule the body and to serve God, not to waste

our lives in a vain existence. Let us consider Lot, a man who followed what his eyes found appealing and compromised his values.

He was rich and was nephew to Abraham. They decided to part ways after their servants fought over water. Abraham told him to choose which way to go and he, Abraham would go the other way. We read in **Genesis 13:10**, "And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar." To Lot it looked good so it must be good. Many of us, by experience, have learned that everything that looks good is, often, not good as it looks.

Lot may or may not have known about Sodom. If he did it did not keep him from going toward it. True to his word, Abraham went in the other direction. In **Genesis 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 pitched his tent toward Sodom at the first. When we next

read of Lot he is in Sodom, living in a house in the city. I have wondered how a man who believed in God could live in such a place. If we are against sin how could such wickedness be tolerated day after day? It is said that he was vexed by their unrighteous deeds but, evidently not enough to leave. He was drawn in and although bothered by the sin, must have told himself that he needed to be there. People to this very day make excuses for things that they allow, that they know are not right.

Look at what it cost Lot and then decide if it was worth it. His herds, servants, and wealth are not mentioned anymore. He also lost his wife, daughters, and then fathered children by his other daughters while being drunk. Did he intend for all of this to happen? No, but he allowed it to happen by being lax with his spiritual life. He got to friendly with sinful things and paid the price like a lot of people do today. It is not enough just to be able to say, "I haven't done anything bad." We must also strive to do what is right. It is not always easy or popular but we must decide who we follow and where we want to spend eternity.

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WE DO IT EVERY NIGHT OF OUR LIVES, WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT-BUT, IN BIBLICAL TIMES, IT COULD HAVE A VERY SERIOUS CONNOTATION!




THE TAKING OFF OF A SHOE IN BIBLICAL TIMES WAS THE SIGN A MAN USED TO SHOW THAT HE WAS NOT WILLING TO MAKE A DEAD BROTHER'S WIDOW HIS WIFE—THIS WAS A LEVIRATE DUTY WHICH ENABLED THE DEAD MAN'S NAME TO BE KEPT ALIVE IN ISRAEL, FOR THE FIRST SON OF THIS UNION WOULD BE COUNTED AS THE DEAD MAN'S SON AND WOULD RECEIVE HIS INHERITANCE. BOAZ, A NEAR-KINSMAN OF THE WIDOW RUTH (RUTH 4:1-14) WISHED TO MARRY HER BUT THERE WAS A NEARER KINSMAN TO WHOM THE PRIVILEGE BELONGED. HOWEVER, THIS MAN WAS UNWILLING AND, IN THE PRESENCE OF TEN ELDERS AS WITNESSES, HE TOOK OFF HIS SHOE AND GAVE IT TO BOAZ, SHOWING HE DIDN'T WISH TO "STAND IN THE SHOES OF THE DEAD MAN", THUS BOAZ WAS FREE TO MARRY RUTH AS NEXT OF KIN, WHICH RESOLVED THE MATTER HAPPILY—HOWEVER....

...IT DIDN'T ALWAYS WORK OUT AS EASILY AS THAT! THE LAW, AS STATED IN DEUT. 25:5-10, HELD THAT A BROTHER OR NEAREST OF KIN WAS DUTY-BOUND TO TAKE HIS BROTHER'S WIDOW TO WIFE IF THE BROTHER DIED CHILDLESS (IF THE WIDOW HAD CHILDREN, THEY HAD TO CARE FOR HER IN HER OLD AGE). NOW, IF A MAN REFUSE TO TAKE HIS BROTHER'S CHILDLESS WIDOW AS A WIFE, THEN, BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY OF THE TRIBE HE WOULD "LOOSE HIS SHOE FROM OFF HIS FOOT, AND SPIT IN HIS FACE", BECAUSE THE CULPRIT WOULDN'T DO HIS DUTY TO HIS DEAD BROTHER BY GIVING HIM A LIVING SON! HIS NAME WOULD THEN BE KNOWN THROUGHOUT ISRAEL AS "THE HOUSE OF HIM THAT HATH HIS SHOE LOOSED". SO TO REFUSE THIS DUTY WAS A MARK OF SHAME TO THESE ANCIENT PEOPLE—BEFORE A MAN DID THAT, HE'D BE BETTER TO—in the JARGON OF TODAY'S YOUNG PEOPLE—"COOL IT WITH THAT SHOE, MAN!"

NEXT WEEK: "LET'S GO HUNTING!"

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