

Lot

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian church

Genesis 13:12-13, "Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly."

Lot was like a lot of people in that he thought that if it looked good, it must be good. When given the choice of which direction to go in separating from Abram, he looked and saw that there was a lot of water so he went the way toward Sodom. If he knew of the reputation of Sodom and Gomorrah he was not bothered by it. He pitched his tent toward Sodom. **Verse 12** says that he dwelled in the cities of the plain, but it seems that he preferred Sodom.

It is hard to understand this man Lot. Perhaps he was the same as the many who are basically good people, but are prone to take shortcuts for gain, or pleasure. **2 Peter 2:8** says, "For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful

deeds." He was not an evil man according to the word of God, but we must wonder how he could tolerate being among the most evil kind of men. It would have been bad enough if he were alone, but he had a wife and daughters that were exposed to the sinful state that existed in Sodom.

When the angels came to Sodom in **Genesis 19** Lot was sitting in the gate and recognized them for who they were. He, knowing the type of men that lived in Sodom, urged them to come to his home for their safety. Lot might have lived among the sinners, but he still had not become like them in the sinful acts that they committed. As he had sat in the gate of the city he had to have witnessed the sinful lives of the people and the perversion of justice. It bothered him but not enough to cause him to leave. Why did he stay, was it for the comforts of the city, was he making money that made him live in such a wicked city?

Remember that Lot was rich with large herds and servants. It was these that caused him to leave Abram and to go his own way. Nothing more is mentioned of his wealth, herds, or servants after he leaves Sodom. On the way he even loses his wife when she disobeyed the command to not look back. Lot lost

a lot by going to Sodom and deciding to live there. He may not have approved of the lifestyles that he saw there, but he wasn't troubled by the sin enough to leave. Someone once said that if a person hangs around vain, or wicked people then there must be something that they do that the person likes. I suppose the statement is true for if you don't like liars, why would you hang around with them?

One thing is certain, Lot must have come to a time when he wished that he had never come anywhere near Sodom. He lost so much because of its wicked ways, even if he didn't partake of their sins directly. His daughters evidently picked up some of the city's sinful morals in that they thought it alright to get Lot drunk and commit incest with him.

Any man or woman can tell you that if you don't want to be hurt by sin that you should stay as far away from it as possible. There is no way to be around sin and those who enjoy sinful deeds and not be harmed by it. For most of us it is a hard and painful lesson to be learned, with many shameful memories. Jesus forgives our sin, but the memories of them is ours to keep. The best thing to do is to resist sin and to pitch your tent toward heaven, and never toward Sodom.

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... THIS STRATEGY BACKFIRED ON ZIMRI! HIS OWN ARMY, ON HEARING OF THIS VICIOUS SLAUGHTER, WAS SO HORRIFIED THAT ITS MEN MARCHED AGAINST ZIMRI'S PALACE, WHERE THE KING-FOR-A-WEEK SET FIRE TO THE ROYAL DOMICILE, PREFERRING TO DIE RATHER THAN FACE THE BRAND OF STERN JUSTICE HIS FORMER SOLDIERS WOULD MOST CERTAINLY ADMINISTER TO HIM - FOR, IN ONE WEEK, ZIMRI HAD CAUSED AS MUCH MISERY AS MOST OTHER TYRANTS ACCOMPLISHED IN A LIFETIME OF RULE!

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