

Series: Add To Your Faith

VEXED

2 PETER 2:7-8

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⁷ *And delivered just Lot, **vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked**:⁸ (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, **vexed his righteous soul** from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)*

Introduction:

Lot is an example of a Christian who tried to live as close to the world as possible with the mistaken idea that it wouldn't affect him. As a result, Lot lost everything. He lost his family, his possessions, and his integrity. He lost it all.

Many Christians of our day are doing much the same as Lot. They are trying to live as close to the world as possible without being affected by it. They are living a tightrope existence, attempting to live with one foot in the world and one foot in God's kingdom. But the fact is it can't be done. That kind of life will inevitably lead to a fall.

Remember what the Lord said in Matt 6:

Matthew 6:24

²⁴ No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

The point is you can't live for self and the world, while at the same time being committed and pleasing to God. It is a spiritual impossibility. Trying to walk with the world and with the Lord at the same time simply can't be done. Those two ways of life cancel out each other.

Notice with me today how trying to walk with the world caused Lot to vex his righteous soul.

Lot vexed his soul because of:

1. HIS WEAK DEVOTION TOWARD GOD

Genesis 13:5-6

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

A. He Had Great Assets and Wealth

Note three things:

- The Bible does not condemn anyone for having great riches. The scripture does however, condemn placing our trust in riches.

1 Timothy 6:17

¹⁷ Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

Lot's problem was not his riches, but his worldly attitude. Like the world, he had the idea that the value of his life was dependent upon what he possessed. Lot had relegated first place in his life to his riches. This becomes more evident later.

- Great assets won't make up for weak devotion toward God. Riches in and of themselves will not make one happy, as this true story illustrates.

Many people think money is security, but 1 Timothy 6:9; warns that it can be just the opposite.

1 Timothy 6:9

⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

- If the child of God is to be successful by God's standard, the love of their life must be Jesus. That's true whether you are a pauper or a millionaire. Most of us are richer than we know.

B. He Had No Altar of Worship

We often see his uncle Abraham at an altar worshipping the Lord.

In total contrast to Abraham, Lot's main concern was his assets, not the altar. We are not given the slightest hint from scripture that Lot was ever really committed to God, although he was a believer.

He was extremely weak in his devotion to God. It was this aspect of Lot's life that resulted in his eventual ruin. The Christian who is weak in their devotion to God is an easy target for Satan.

Many Christians of our day have great assets, and even many spiritual activities, but no altar. Everything else in life is rather meaningless without fellowship with God.

Notice not only did "His Weak Devotion Toward God" contribute to him vexing his soul but also:

2. HIS WORLDLY DEPARTURE FROM GOD

Note:

A. It Began With Division

Genesis 13:7

⁷ And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

B. It Revealed Abram's Dignity

Genesis 13:8

⁸ And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.

- Notice the submissive spirit demonstrated by Abraham. One characteristic of one who is walking with God is a cooperative attitude. I do not mean cooperation at all costs; but in general, a desire to help and minister to others, rather than clamoring for one's own way.
- According to the custom of that day, Abraham had the right of first choice, since he was the eldest of the two men. But it is precisely here that the maturity and dignity of Abraham shines. He permitted Lot to have the right of first choice.

C. It Revealed Lot's Worldly Desires

Genesis 13:10

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.*

Note:

I imagine Lot thinking to himself, "Abram is a fool to give me the right of first choice. But that's his mistake. I'm going to get the best I can, while I can."

However, this brings out the trusts of the two men: Abraham trusted God whom he had worshipped at those altars, while Lot trusted the greatness of his assets.

D. It Resulted In Lot's Wrong Decision

Genesis 13:11

¹¹ *Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.*

Sin and worldliness are always a choice on the part of the Christian. The Bible bears this out in Paul's writings, when he says:

Romans 6:12

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Romans 6:14

¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Notice the progression of Lot's worldliness:

- He looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 13:10

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.

- He journeyed toward Sodom and Gommorrah

Genesis 13:11

¹¹ Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

- He pitched his tent toward Sodom

Genesis 13:12

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

This is equivalent to flirting with sin. The Spirit made a point of mentioning the fact that Abraham “...dwelled in the land of Canaan...” (v. 12a), the land of promise, while Lot chose to pitch his tent “...toward Sodom” (v. 12b), a city renowned in that day for its lustful pleasures.

- He eventually moved to Sodom

Genesis 19:1

¹ *And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;*

- He lingered in Sodom

Genesis 19:16

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.*

Sodom had such a hold on him now that he literally had to be brought out by angels.

That process works the same today.

We begin to look which leads to journey towards, which leads to pitching our tents towards, which then leads to us residing in Sodom, which will then cause us to linger.

Notice not only did “His Weak Devotion Toward God” and “His Worldly Departure From God” contribute to him vexing his soul but also:

3. HIS WICKED DWELLING AMONG THE GODLESS

A. He Lived Among the Lustful

- Notice God’s description of the men of Sodom.

Genesis 13:13

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

These men were sexually depraved, criminal types.

These men were so wicked that Lot feared to let the angels stay on the streets.

Genesis 19:2

² *And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.*

The entire city was given over to perversion.

Genesis 19:4-5

⁴ *But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, **both old and young, all the people from every quarter:***⁵
And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

Later, Lot offered his two virgin daughters to this depraved mob, who ignored his offer altogether (Gen.19: 8, 9).

Genesis 19:8-9

⁸ *Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.*⁹ *And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore*

upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door.

It's amazing to me that Lot would stoop this low to offer his own daughters to these perverts but this reveals how badly Sodom had influenced Lot's heart and mind. Rubbing elbows with sin produces a calloused heart.

Can you imagine a believer living in a place like this and being comfortable with it? Don't forget—it happened gradually.

B. He Lingered Though Judgment Loomed

Genesis 19:14-16

¹⁴ And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law. 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. 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.

There is a sad truth here: Whether or not people will listen to your message depends on how you have lived before them. Just because you're telling the truth doesn't earn you the right to be heard. Lot's own family thought he was crazy when he started trying to talk to them about God and judgment, because he had lived without regard for God for so long, everything he said seemed like a joke. His walk did not back up his words.

C. He Lost All That Was Dear to Life

- Lot lost his wife

Genesis 19:26

²⁶ *But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.*

- Lot lost his relatives in the destruction of Sodom

Genesis 19:14

¹⁴ *And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.*

- Lot lost his integrity as a child of God

Genesis 19:30-38

³⁰ *And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the*

mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters. ³¹ And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth: ³² Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. ³³ And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. ³⁴ And it came to pass on the morrow, that the firstborn said unto the younger, Behold, I lay yesternight with my father: let us make him drink wine this night also; and go thou in, and lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father. ³⁵ And they made their father drink wine that night also: and the younger arose, and lay with him; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. ³⁶ Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father. ³⁷ And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same is the father of the Moabites unto this day. ³⁸ And the younger, she also bare a son, and called his name Benammi: the same is the father of the children of Ammon unto this day.

Lot's two remaining daughters got him drunk and committed incest.

Close:

Lot vexed his righteous soul because of:

His weak devotion toward God

His worldly departure from God

His wicked Dwelling among the godless