

THE FAMILY THAT BACKSLID

GENESIS 13

Text:

Introduction:

This is the introduction to a sad story; a story of a family who had every chance to go the right way and do the right thing, but they chose the wrong way and ultimately did the wrong thing. This is a story of a family whose “want” power was stronger than their “will” power.

The decision that Lot made led to the downfall of the whole family. Let me caution you fathers to weigh prayerfully, cautiously and carefully every decision that you make. Measure that decision by the principles of God’s Word.

When you make the right decision, the Devil will immediately rise up and fight you. When you make the wrong decision, the Devil won’t bother you: you’ve made the decision he wanted you to make. But make the right decision and immediately the forces of evil come in against you.

I caution you again to weigh every decision you make by the authority, the principles, the precepts, the teaching of God's Holy Word.

1. The Cause of Backsliding

A. In Lot's case it all began with greed.

(1 John 2:15-17 KJV) "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. {16} For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. {17} And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

1. The cause of backsliding can be summarized with these three statements.

a. Selfish aims

b. Selfish ambitions

c. Selfish aspirations

B. Don't let greed cause you to get away from God.

2. The Course Of Backsliding

A. One word describes the course that Lot took: gradual.

1. Backsliding usually is not a blowout but rather a slow leak.

B. Notice the path Lot took.

1. Looked toward it

(Gen 13:10 KJV) "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."

2. Leaned toward it

(Gen 13:12 KJV) "Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom."

3. Lived in it

(Gen 13:12 KJV) "Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom."

4. Legislated in it

(Gen 19:1 KJV) "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;"

- a. Lot became one of the cities fathers.

5. Loved it and Lingered

(Gen 19:15-16 KJV) "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."

- a. Lot was in no hurry to leave.

3. The Consequences of Backsliding

A. Lost his family

(Gen 19:14 KJV) "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."

(Gen 19:8 KJV) "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."

1. His wife looked back

(Gen 19:26 KJV) "But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."

2. Had at least 4 daughters.

a. Two remained behind, and the other two committed incest with their father.

(Gen 19:31-36 KJV) "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."

B. Lost the companionship of his uncle Abraham.

C. Lost his testimony

Illustration: J. Edgar Hoover said, "Children reared in homes where righteousness is taught and lived rarely become delinquents."

D. Lost his possessions

4. Caution Signs to Look For

1. A desire to be like the world.
2. A disaffection for spiritual things
3. A disproportionate appropriation of you family budget.
 - a. Spending more on entertainment than you are for God.

4. A disarmament against the wiles of the Devil
5. A diminishing involvement in the program of the church.
6. A decline in regular devotions.
7. A disregard for biblical principles.

Close:

Which will it be for your family? Sodom, with Lot; or Salem with Abraham? Sodom had a purse, but it also had a curse.

God in His mercy is giving all of us an opportunity to get out of the world, to get out of Sodom, before judgment comes.