

AND WHILE HE LINGERED

GENESIS 19

Text: Genesis 19:16

Genesis 19:16 (KJV)

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.

Introduction:

To get the back ground of this story we can find each detail about it earlier in the book of Genesis.

(Gen 12:1-5 KJV) Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: {2} And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: {3} And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. {4} So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. {5} And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to

go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

So now that Abraham has been obedient to God's command, in departing, Lot his nephew, and Abram's herdsmen began to have strife in and among themselves. Abram comes to Lot and let him know that he didn't want to have trouble in and among the workers, so that it would be the best for all involved to go their own direction. So Abram told Lot to choose the direction that he wanted to go and Abram said that he would go the opposite direction.

So the Bible said the Lot lifted up his eyes and looked at the plain of Jordan, and how that it was well watered. Then the Bible goes on to say, "Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom." (Gen 13:12 KJV)

I want you to notice that though he pitched his tent toward Sodom, he eventually ended up in Sodom. Don't think for a minute that you can go toward sin, and not eventually end up in sin.

Notice that Lot just started out pitching his tent toward Sodom, but was so entranced by it that he literally lost most of his family.

Notice in Luke 17

- **Noah built the ark to save the human race. (vs 27)**
- **Lot escaped from Sodom by God's grace (vs 28)**
- **Lot's wife died because she turned her face (vs 32)**

What a sad ending to a family. Lot didn't even have enough influence on his family that they all came out of Sodom. And remember it all started by pitching his tent toward Sodom.

Notice:

1. When Lot Lingered

- A. When it was time for decisive action.
- B. When his godly uncle was praying for him.
- C. When Heavenly messengers were urging him to go.
- D. When judgment was imminent
- E. When he knew better to linger.

Illustration: J.C. Ryle made these statements about Lot

- a. Slow when he should have been quick

b. Backward when he should have been forward.

c. Loitering when he should have been hurrying.

d. Cold when he should have been hot.

2. Why Lot Lingered

A. He made wrong choices early in life.

(Gen 13:5-11)

(Gen 13:5-11 KJV) 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. {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. {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. {9} Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left. {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. {11} Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

B. He found fellowship with sinners.

(Gen 13:11-13)

(Gen 13:11-13 KJV) Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. {12} Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. {13} But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

C. He had raised his family in Sodom.

D. Possibly felt too old to start over again.

E. Sodom was home.

3. Many Are Lingerin Like Lot

A. They know more truth than they live.

B. They believe in Heaven but don't long for it.

C. They know time is short but live as if it were long.

D. They build their lives on things below.

E. They understand the battle but consort with the enemy

F. They say they love Christ but they don't live for him.

Close:

What is it that we are lingering to do? Trust Christ as our personal Savior, or give all that we are for the Lord to use. Neither time, nor death, nor judgment linger.

The price for lingering is great. Are you willing to pay the price?