

In the World, Not of the World

Genesis 19: 15-17

This is a portion of Scripture that we are all familiar with. It is a passage that isn't dealt with much because of the truth that it reveals. We are living in a time where truth is often rejected and overlooked, especially when it isn't consistent with our desires and behaviors.

Before we get into the message, we need to take a moment to consider the events that have led up to the current position. Lot was the nephew of Abraham and was brought out of the land of Ur into the land of Canaan with him. Things were going well until the herds of Abraham and Lot grew unto the point of dispute and difficulty. The men reached the place that they had to separate and Abraham offered Lot the choice in regard to direction. Lot chose the land toward Sodom. [Gen.13:10-11 – 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. Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.](#) This was the beginning of Lot's demise.

Now we need to understand where Lot was spiritually. He was not a man who hadn't heard and received truth. In fact, we can be certain that Lot was a child of God. [2 Pet.2:7-8 – And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: \(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;\)](#) The Bible is clear in regard to Lot's relationship with the Lord, but it also reveals his desire to remain among the world. Notice [V.16](#) again: [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.](#) Lot belonged to God and yet there was a strong attachment to the world.

Many in our day face the same situation. They are saved and yet they still linger among the world and cling to what it offers. I want us consider the principles revealed in the text concerning the dangerous of holding on to the world as we think on the thought: [In the World, Not of the World.](#)

➤ [Gen.19:15 – 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.](#) The angels [hastened](#) Lot; they literally urged him, they pressed him and insisted that he follow their direction. We too need to sense the urgency revealed in the text. These are not options to consider, but commands to obey. First we see that:

I. It is Time to Arise – This is the first command that the angels gave; **Arise**. This has the idea of “**rising, to stand up, to be established or proven, to fulfill or confirm.**” The angels emphasized Lot’s need to stand up for the things of God. It was time for him to establish who he was in the eyes of the world, to prove his faith and confirm it unto them. It was time to make a stand!

- It is time for the church and the body of Christ to arise in our day. We need to stand up and be counted. We need to establish who we are and where we stand and prove our stance by the life that we live. It is time that we fulfill the obligations that the Lord has given us.
- We have been silent far too long. We cannot expect the world to change or to have victory in our lives if we are unwilling to arise. This will not be easy and I can assure you that it will not be popular, but we must stand. **Ps. 1:1 – Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.**
- We will never gain victory over the world as long as we are content sitting among the world. It is time to Arise and be counted among the faithful!

II. It is Time to Assemble – **Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here.** This was not an obligation for Lot alone. He was to assemble his family with him. He was responsible for them and he needed to get them together to flee the world. He had led them there and now it was time to lead them out.

- We need to sense the urgency to assemble in our day. We need parents who will assume responsibility for their children. It is a sad day in which we live. Often the Pastor or Sunday school teachers receive the blame, but the responsibility ultimately falls within the home.
- If you are expecting your children to make it in this dark world based solely on what they receive at the house of God, you are sadly mistaken. They need to be surrounded by God’s truth on a daily basis. We cannot expect our children to overcome when there is no righteous instruction within the home. Oh that moms and dads in our day would assemble their families and instill the truths of God’s Word in them. Live out your faith before them. The apple usually doesn’t fall too far from the tree.
- **Eph.5:23; 25 – For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it. Eph.6:4 – And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.**
- **Titus 2:3-5 – The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.**

- We need to get away from the selfishness within our churches as well. Often we grow complacent when our family is saved and doing well spiritually, but we need to sense the urgency and obligation for others also.

I. It is Time to Arise

II. It is Time to Assemble

III. It is Time to Admit – **Lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.** Things were desperate for Lot. It was time for him to admit where he was with the Lord. If he would not turn, judgment was all that remained.

- We are not playing games here today. This is very serious. It troubles me to see the nonchalant and flippant attitude that many have in our day regarding the Lord and their relationship with Him. We are living in desperate days and it is time that we admit where we stand with the Lord. We know where we are and what we need to do, but we can't seem to come to grips with. We just ignore it, rather than admitting it.
- Why is it that folks come to church week after week and yet there is no change in their lives? It is simple: they are not willing to admit that there are areas in their lives that need to be addressed. This first step in dealing with life's problems is to admit that there is a problem! God already knows and you do as well; why not admit it so you can deal with it?

IV. It is Time for Action (17) – **And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, **Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.**** Here we find that Lot had a decision to make. It was time for action. The days of living among the world had caught up with him and judgment was coming unless he chose to act in order to escape. The word **escape** means “**to slip away, to save or deliver.**” This was something that Lot could no longer ignore or be passive about.

- One doesn't need to look very far to determine that it is time for action among the people of God. We have been complacent about the needs of our day for far too long. We have become comfortable living among the world and have gotten to the place that we refuse to deal with it.
- We know what the Bible says and we know what needs to be done. The question is: what are we going to do about it? Are we going to continue to live among the world, and in many instances, participate in the world, or are we going to take action and escape the world?
- You will never find deliverance and victory in your spiritual life as long as you are content to dwell in Sodom. It is foolish to continue doing the same old things and expect a different result! It is time for the church of the living God to act when it comes to the sin in our lives and the condition of our world. Are you willing to make that move for the Lord today?

I. It is Time to Arise

II. It is Time to Assemble

III. It is Time to Admit

IV. It is Time for Action (17)

V. It is Time to Abandon – **Escape for thy life; look not behind thee.** Lot was not only told to escape from Sodom, but to refrain from looking back when he left. He was to walk away from the life he knew and never look back. There wasn't going to be anything left to go back to.

- This is a problem that seems to plague many in their Christian journey. They may come to the place that they are willing to admit their need, and even do something about that need, but far too often they are looking back. They question whether they have made the right decision. The desires of the flesh rise up again and they long to return to its pleasures.
- If we are to overcome and endure, we must completely and totally abandon the flesh. We cannot second guess our actions. We cannot continue to look at the former things and debate which was better.
- The world has nothing to go back to. It offers nothing but heartache, destruction, and pain. The life that I now live cannot be compared to the life that I once knew. There have been times when I have wondered and strayed from God, but in those times I was never happy. I wouldn't trade what I have in fellowship with Jesus for all that the world could offer.
- Are you willing to walk away from the world without looking back? This is much easier said than done. The adversary will try to create doubt within your heart. He will tell you that you have made a grave mistake. You must not listen to his lies, but forsake the world for the power of God.
- **Lu.9:62 – And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. Phil.3:13-14 – Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

VI. It is Time to Ascend – **Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.** Clearly Lot was to make an upward journey. God didn't want him to stay in the plains surrounding Sodom, but escape to the safety of the mountains.

- There is a great spiritual application here. We need to be climbing higher for the Lord instead of maintaining a steady altitude. Many Christians are content to dwell among the plains and have no desire to reach even greater heights for the Lord.
- It is time for the church to ascend in our generation. We have dwelt in the lowlands, among the world, long enough. We need to seek a higher peak for the Lord.

- This will not be an easy journey. Lot argued with the Lord concerning his ability to make the trip. We too put a fight when called upon to move up higher. I am convinced that God has more for us than what we currently enjoy. There is so much more than we could experience in our walk with God if we would only commit to make the climb.
- The deciding factor is whether we are content in the plains of the world or if we desire to climb higher. I certainly want to climb higher; do you?

This has not been an easy passage to deal with, but it reveals great truth concerning our lives. I am convinced that the Holy Spirit has spoken to hearts today. Are you willing to make a move toward the Lord and what He desires for you or are you going to be as Lot was and resist the call of God? This altar is open if you are willing to meet the Lord and gain the victory.