



Genesis – 19:1-19:38
Grace in the Midst of Judgment
(Lesson #28)

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19:1 The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth 2 and said, "My lords, please turn aside to your servant's house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may rise up early and go on your way." They said, "No; we will spend the night in the town square." 3 But he pressed them strongly; so they turned aside to him and entered his house. And he made them a feast and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

Vs 1-2 - So the two angels that left Abraham arrive at Sodom, notice, in the evening.

Lot, and we talked about this in the past, has gone from dwelling with Abraham, to pitching his tent towards Sodom (Gen 13:12), the moving into Sodom (Gen 14:12), to now "sitting in the gate" (Gen 19:1).

This is likely alluding to some type of position of authority, some type of magistrate in this wicked city!

He is sitting in the gate and he sees the men (angels) approaching. He arises, goes out to meet them, and at least as a custom of respect, bows himself before them. We saw Abraham do the same thing, maybe for the same reason(s).

He calls them "Lords" this too is likely customary, and he says to them to turn aside and come to his house where they can wash their feet and spend the night. The next morning, they can rise and be headed on their way.

All of this seems innocent enough. They say: **"No; we will spend the night in the town square."**

Vs 3 - Lot pressed them, we suspect Lot was likely concerned about these two men and what the men of the city might do to them. Lot pressed them, and they agree to spend the evening with him in his home.

Lot made a feast for them and baked unleavened bread and they ate. It is interesting to note that Lot did the cooking, his wife is not mentioned, and he gave them unleavened bread.

This is the first mention of "leaven" in the Bible. The next time it will be mentioned is in connection with the Passover Feast which was to be observed without leaven (Ex 12:8).

4 ¶ But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house. 5 And they called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them." 6 Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him, 7 and said, "I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly. 8 Behold, I have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof." 9 But they said, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them." Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and drew near to break the door down. 10 But the men reached out their hands and brought Lot into the house with them and shut the door. 11 And they struck with blindness the men who were at the entrance of the house, both small and great, so that they wore themselves out groping for the door.

Vs 4-5 - Before they could even go to bed, the men of the city, a great number of the men of the city, likely even all the men of the city, both young and old surrounded the house.

The men outside the house called to Lot with both a question and a demand. So much for whatever position Lot may have held in the city, the men of the city are now making demands of him.

First the question: *"Where are the men who came to you tonight?"* Of course the inhabitants of Sodom likely knew where they were. The question is quickly followed up with the demand: *"Bring them out to us, that we may know them."*

This is the Hebrew word - **יָדָע (yada')**. **It is the same Hebrew word for know that we saw last week when the Bible said Yahweh "knew" Abraham.** It is a word that means to have **intimate knowledge.**

Here it is being used in a **carnal sense**, the men of the city, young and old, if not all, a great number want to **"know"** these angels.

This is the depravity of the city that Lot has moved his wife and daughters into. This is the depravity of the city that Lot is in some sense is in a leadership role in. It is a city that is filled with wickedness and violence.

Welcome to Sodom, where we endeavor to KNOW you! I suppose that is the slogan of the city.

Vs 6-8 - I can picture this in my mind, Lot slinks out through the front door, and shuts it behind himself.

Then he say to all the men of the city both young and old. **First**, I beg you (brothers), do not act so wickedly.

OK, pop quiz! Do we really suspect Lot had no knowledge of their behavior. He likely knows they have been acting this wickedly. It is now they want to hoist it upon his two guests.

Second. This is more shocking than the first thing. Lot makes a counter-offer. Lot offers: Rather than have sex with these two men he says: *8 Behold, I have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof."*

Now we will learn in a moment that these virgin daughters are likely betrothed to men. But these are Lot's daughters, and he offers to bring them out and hand them over, and the men of the city can "do to them as they please."

This is horrific and sickening! We understand Lot's concern for the guests who have entered his home, we have no understanding of this offer.

Vs 9- The men of the city have no interest in these two virgin women, but instead they tell Lot **to stand back, to step away, to move aside!**

Further, they say you came here to dwell and to live among us and now you are **acting like our judge!**

We will **deal worse** with you than with them! YIKES!

The was a situation that was out of control, it is now off the rails, and it appears as if the mob is going to kill Lot and take the two angels by force!

Then they **"pressed hard"** against Lot and drew near to **break down the front door.** This is a mob scene!

Vs 10-11 - The two angels, open the front door, grab Lot, bring him into the house, and once again shut the door. But let's be honest, this alone is not going to stop the advance of this lust driven mob!

Then we read in verse (11) they (the angels) struck the men of the city with blindness (both great and small, fat and tall, young and old), again these are not mere men, but are angelic beings. Lot likely recognizes this now.

Next we read that these men now struck with blindness, but that does not detour their sexual lust and drive to have sex with these angels and these blind men “wore themselves out groping for the door.”

Blind but not detoured, they press to get at the two men and “know” them! Imagine this situation!

12 Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place. 13 For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it." 14 So Lot went out and said to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, "Up! Get out of this place, for the LORD is about to destroy the city." But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

Vs 12-13 - Then the angels speak to Lot and asks if there is any one else (sons-in-law, sons, daughters, ANYONE)?

Then they tell Lot their mission: *For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it."*

The LORD (Yahweh) has sent us to destroy this place!

PAUSE THE ACTION: In this event and this request, we are learning something indirectly. God will not sweep away any of the just with the unjust!

Jesus presents this event as a model of the final judgment:

"28 Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot — they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, 29 but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all — 30 so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed." (Lu 17:28-30 ESV)

This is a real event, real place, real people, but should serve as a picture of the **final judgement**, and one of the lessons we learn from Lot is that God will allow NONE of the righteous (those who have placed faith in Him) to be swept away with the unrighteous!

One other point, this is yet another **short-term predictive prophecy**. Here the angels are saying Yahweh is going to sweep away this place!

I hope you continue to see the staggering number of short term predictions that are contained in the Bible. Notice carefully, the angels say: *"the LORD has sent us to destroy it."*

The angels have come to destroy Sodom. But, their actual task is a little larger than just Sodom.

In fact, the Angels are given the task of **destroying the five cities of the plain**. The outcry has gotten so loud and has become “great” before the Lord.

APPLICATION: The **expansion of perverse sexual sins** makes nation ripe for the physical wrath of God. People can mainstream any behavior they want, but that is not how God works!

Thoughts About what is Happening in Sodom in particular Homosexuality:

"26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with

women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error." (Ro 1:26-27 ESV)

"9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." (1Co 6:9-11 ESV)

Does God love homosexuals? Absolutely, but he does not love wicked sinful behavior! Does God love heterosexuals who are having sex outside of marriage, yes. Does He love their sin? NO!

Vs 14 - Lot leaves and goes and finds his sons-in-law.

Most believe these two men are bequeathed to be married to his two daughters, but the consummation of that marriage has not yet occurred.

Lot finds his sons-in-law and brings the message of God's warning, he seems to deliver the truth of what God has declared, he says to them: *"Up! Get out of this place, for the LORD is about to destroy the city."*

We can imagine that he said this in **great seriousness**, he said it with **urgency**, he was **truly** and **legitimately concerned** and no doubt delivered the message with great intensity.

But the sons-in-law thought that he was **jesting**, thought he was **joking**, thought he was **mocking**, that he was **kidding**, they thought that he was **playing!**

You can imagine, Lot tried with all his might, but they thought this was some kind of joke!

THOUGHT EXERCISE: Why didn't his sons-in-law listen to him? We do not know, but could it be because they saw the life he was living. How could they listen to a guy talking about a God who is going to judge sin, when Lot is the mayor of sin city. You see sin has consequences!

So here we are, the clock is ticking, and the sons-in-law believe Lot is playing around!

15 As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city." 16 But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. 17 And as they brought them out, one said, "Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away." 18 And Lot said to them, "Oh, no, my lords. 19 Behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me and I die. 20 Behold, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there — is it not a little one? — and my life will be saved!" 21 He said to him, "Behold, I grant you this favor also, that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. 22 Escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

Vs 15 - Remember, these angels showed up with urgency, sent to deliver Lot and destroy Sodom.

They showed up as the day was ending, Lot did not want them to spend the night in the square, so he offered to take them in to his home. They had dinner together, but before they could go to bed the men showed up.

So, this has been ongoing through the evening and the early morning hours of the following day.

Now, as morning dawned, the angels **urged Lot**, the angels said to Lot: "**Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city.**"

Get your wife, get your two daughters, get out of here, **lest you be swept** away in the punishment of this city! You see their **urgency!** But Lot does not appear to be in any particular hurry.

Vs 16 - But Lot lingered... Lot tarried, Lot delayed, Lot hesitated... In SODOM!

APPLICATION: This can happen to us, we can get **so accustomed to sin**, that we start to enjoy it, rather than hate it. But, the whole time (like Lot) it is vexing our soul and the temporal consequences are spreading in our lives like the plague! **JUST ASK LOT!**

So the angels, **grabbed Lot**, they **grabbed Lot's wife**, they **grabbed Lot's two daughters**, by their hands and **drug them out of the city.**

Then we are told why, because: ***the LORD being merciful to him!***

This is stunning, it is shocking, in the midst of judgment, **God shows MERCY!** In the midst of judgment God is showing compassion on Lot.

I would encourage you. When in the **Bible you read about God's judgement**, go and **look for his mercy**, His **compassion** is normally on display as well!

"8 Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, "Plead with the LORD to take away the frogs from me and from my people, and I will let the people go to sacrifice to the LORD." 9 Moses said to Pharaoh, "Be pleased to command me when I am to plead for you and for your servants and for your people, that the frogs be cut off from you and your houses and be left only in the Nile." 10 And he said, "Tomorrow." Moses said, "Be it as you say, so that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God." (Ex 8:8-10 ESV)

APPLICATION: God has shown you and I **mercy on countless occasions.** Like Lot, God did not owe us mercy, but he has shown us mercy.

Our God is a God of mercy! Here in the midst of **judgement falling**, **God shows mercy to Lot and his family!** In spite of his folly, the LORD (Yahweh) was being **merciful to him!**

Vs 17 - The angels **brought them out of the city**, by the **hand**, then one of the angels looks at them and says:

1. Escape for your life, run, run for your life,
2. Do not look back,
3. Do not stop anywhere in the valley,
4. Escape to the hills the mountains. Reason - lest you be swept away in this judgment.

APPLICATION: We have a very similar message today! Do we not?

Vs 18-20 - This is **shocking!** Lot says: **Of no Lords please.** If I have **found favor in your sight**, seeing that you have shown me this **great kindness**, in saving my life, **I cannot escape to the hills, disaster will overtake me and I will die.**

Lot goes on... Running to the hills, running to the mountains is too treacherous? I would argue anywhere around here is too treacherous, but let's follow the story.

Now, keep this in mind, for you will soon see what happens in verse 30!

Lot continues, there is a city close enough for me to run to, it is a **small city**, let me **escape there**, is it not a **little city**. There my life can be saved.

Lot has not named the city, but he is thinking of Bela, a city that will be renamed **Zoar.**

CONSIDER: When this event (the overthrow of the cities of the valley) is mentioned in Deut 29, when Moses is warning the Israelites to obey God, he reminds them of this event and says:

“the whole land burned out with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath — ” (De 29:23 ESV)

Notice no mention of Bela or Zoar!

But let’s be honest, this whole interaction is bizarre. Does Lot really understand the seriousness of the moment? **Lot is appealing to God’s love and God amazingly responds.**

APPLICATION:

“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb 4:16 ESV)

Lot was afraid, cried out to God, and God showed grace and mercy!

Vs 21-22 - So one of the angels speaks to Lot and says: OK, I grant this favor also. I will not overthrow the city that you are speaking of.

Look at God’s response. I hear both of your prayers, **you do not have to go to the mountains**, you can instead go to the city and **I will spare the city!**

APPLICATION: Lot is acting in a completely carnal way, and this guy in the midst of his own personal carnally cries out to God! God hears and **responds!**

APPLICATION:

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” (Jas 5:16 ESV)

“You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.” (Jas 4:2 ESV)

Quick point. Satan would say to us, God does not want to hear from you, you failed yesterday, last week, last year, or whatever. That is a lie from the pit of hell. God wants you to confess your sins and cry out to Him!

Then the angel tells Lot to escape there quickly. For he can do **nothing**, until Lot arrives there!

How many righteous will be swept away with the unrighteous? **NONE!**

This of course is true eternally for you and I:

“27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. 30 I and the Father are one.”” (Joh 10:27-30 ESV)

Then we are told the name of the city was called ZOAR which means **“insignificant” or little.**

Now the name of this city originally was Bela: *“1 In the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, 2 these kings made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).” (Ge 14:1-2 ESV)*

23 The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. 24 ¶ Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven. 25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 26 ¶ But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Vs 23-24 - The sun has now **risen on the earth**, this event **started last night**, and it is **now morning of the following day**.

That **morning**, Lot, his wife, and his three daughters **arrived in Zoar**. THEN: *the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven.*

Now before we unpack this, God is **patient** and **long suffering**, God does not rush to judgment, but instead gives men and women many opportunities to repent.

But today, the clock will run out... Today is **judgement day** for the **cities of the valley!**

We can only imagine what this might have looked like, and Theologians are divided. Was this a massive earthquake with gases escaping into the atmosphere that were ignited by lightening, was this volcanism, was this a divine miracle where, Yahweh rained sulfur that was apparently on fire, out of heaven on Sodom and Gomorrah.

Vs 25 - He (Yahweh) **overthrew, overturned, destroyed those cities**, notice carefully, and **ALL the valley**, and **all the inhabitants of the cities**, and what grew on the ground.

We can imagine that balls of sulfur, on fire, reigning down from heaven would bring **unimaginable destruction** and there would be **nowhere in the open to hide from the destruction**.

APPLICATION: This **world will one day be judged**. The fact that judgment is **delayed**, but that does not mean that **judgment is denied**, rather it reminds us of the long suffering of our God.

Many verses in the Bible remind us about this coming judgment! But today, the grace of God still goes out.

Vs 26 - Lot's wife is trailing behind him and she **looked back**, we **do not know why**, we might imagine she **missed the city**, we might **imagine** that she had **many fond memories in Sodom**, we do not know why, but she **looked back**.

The allurement and deception of sin! The angel had told them: "... *Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away.*" (Ge 19:17b ESV)

She looked back and she **became a pillar of SALT!** We are not told how it happened, we are not told what caused it to happen, only that it happened.

Jesus warned:

"28 Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot — they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, 29 but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all — 30 so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. 31 On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back. 32 Remember Lot's wife." (Lu 17:28-32 ESV)

27 And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. 28 And he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace. 29 So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the

cities in which Lot had lived. 30 ¶ Now Lot went up out of Zoar and lived in the hills with his two daughters, for he was afraid to live in Zoar. So he lived in a cave with his two daughters. 31 And the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to 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 offspring from our father." 33 So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father. He did not know when she lay down or when she arose. 34 The next day, the firstborn said to the younger, "Behold, I lay last night with my father. Let us make him drink wine tonight also. Then you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father." 35 So they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. 36 Thus both the daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father. 37 The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to this day. 38 The younger also bore a son and called his name Ben-ammi. He is the father of the Ammonites to this day.

Vs 27 - We leave the **events of the valley** and we flash back to **Mamre**, back to the area of **Hebron**.

It is early in the morning, Sarah has made Abraham a cup of coffee, and **Abraham strolls out of his tent**, to the **place where he and the LORD** had talked. The **same place** where he had interceded on behalf of Lot.

Vs 28 - Abraham, **looked down**, (down in elevation), down towards Sodom and Gomorrah and behold.

The **smoke** of the land went up like the **smoke of a furnace**. We can **picture this in our minds!**

This is a picture of the final judgment! One day, it will not be the cities of the valley, it will be the entire world!

Vs 29 - But when God destroyed the cities of the valley, **God remembered Abraham**, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in which Lot lived in one of them.

Lot was a righteous man and will live forever in heaven. But Lot's choices have consequences in this life!

Vs 30 - Funny enough, when all this happened it **scared Lot so much** that he left Zoar and moved to the hills with his two daughters. After watching all that had happened he was afraid to stay in Zoar.

He instead moved into the hills with his daughters and lived in a cave.

So, Lot is the **first cave man** and we find him here in the Bible!

Vs 31-32 - Now Lot's oldest daughter proposes to the younger daughter: *"Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to 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 offspring from our father."*

Vs 33 - So the first night they got dad drunk and then the firstborn went in and had sexual intercourse with her father. Lot had no idea that she had come or that she had gone.

Vs 34 - Then the firstborn says to the younger, I had sex with dad last night. Let's get him drunk again and then you go in and lie with him to preserve offspring.

Vs 35 - So the girls got dad drunk again, the younger went in and laid with her father. He was so intoxicated that he had no idea she came in and no idea when she arose.

Vs 36 - As we might imagine, these two daughters both became pregnant by their father.

Vs 37-38 - This would result in two people groups that Israel would have to deal with, the first was the Moabites and the second the Ammonites.