Genesis Chapter 19 Verse 1

* The two angels that were with the Lord come to Sodom (I’m not quite sure why the Lord *isn’t* with them…although it could be that He was too **heart-broken** over what was happening there) and they immediately encounter Lot who was ***sitting in the gate.*** That may sound odd to us but basically that means that he was some sort of **civic leader.**
* Notice the progression towards loss in Lot’s life. **No** altars. **No** service and submission to his uncle. **No** strong leadership of his workforce…they argued with Abraham’s people and *Lot stood by allowing it*…and then he went from *looking* towards Sodom (Genesis 13:10), to *pitching his tent* toward Sodom (Genesis 13:12), to *living in Sodom* and losing everything (Genesis 14), to now sitting in the gate, ***one of them***, fully ***assimilated*** and *“part of the crew, part of the ship.”*
* In this world we live in, it’s almost **impossible** to not *“look towards”* sin. *The news, the magazines, the streets, the billboards, the shirts, the speak, the power in the air* has grown **ultra-invasive** and **ultra-pervasive** in these last days…careful…how ***fast*** and how ***subtly*** you can be entrapped, defrauded, fooled, tricked into becoming a man or woman not of honor and discipline and truth but of shame and selfishness…and ***literally***, lose everything.
* I see Lot sitting here in the gate…*remembering his uncle.* People of great character and honor and loyalty stick with you when you depart from them, you know…and here he sits perhaps longing to go back, to a simpler time, a time where the air wasn’t so thick with ***depravity***…Different spin I know but Peter might agree with me as he wrote in 2 Peter 2, *“God delivered righteous Lot, who was* ***oppressed*** *by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing lawless deeds).”*
* Listen, Lot…**just go!** What was stopping him? *Pride* maybe. *Fear* most likely…but here he sits in the gates of the city that he *slipped* into by spiritually loose living and **he wants out**…***so go, man.*** Is that you? *Abraham awaits!* The *Father of many nations* has a whole life for you, just waiting for you to lock your door in Sodom one last time and you leave for your own life! Lot sat in the gate of Sodom…***heavy AND abl***e to do something about it…yet he sat…

Genesis Chapter 19 Verses 2 – 5

* This is just a ***crazy*** scene. A mob gathers outside and their request is ***bring out the strangers that we may ravage them?!*** This level of *criminality, degradation and wickedness* is almost unthinkable but this gives us an understanding of just how **vicious and perverted** this city was. Men, young and old…from every quarter…which means that this behavior wasn’t considered unusual and it was everywhere, the entire city was *contaminated!*
* Ezekiel 16 gives us a clue as to what was the ***pollutant,*** the catalyst in the city that led to this level of degeneracy. Ezekiel 16:49-50, *“Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen (encourage) the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me.*” Are these ***pollutants*** present in your life? Of course they are! The only cure, the only filter, cleaner, restorer…is grace. Receive the grace of God and your heart will be filled with *gratitude, humility, softness of heart*…and although God will provide you satisfaction from bread, your heart will be ***thankful*** for it…my, how there’s a whole sermon just right here…

Genesis Chapter 19 Verses 6 – 8

* Lot’s ***remedy***, his offer makes me sick to my stomach. It is appalling and shameful. ***I’m not sure what is more horrible, the men at the door or the man standing in the door.***  But you know what, that’s the truth even when there is not obvious disgusting sin…and the more I remember that, the more I am usable for the cross of Christ.

Genesis Chapter 19 Verse 9

* Not much has changed has it? Notice what they say here…more than 3,000 years ago. *“Why are you always judging me (because I have not been baptized)!?”* **HA (Nacho Libre Quote)** What they say implies that Lot was somewhat *known* for perhaps speaking against the immorality there but notice, ***they have no respect for him***…why? He probably comes across as *holier than thou*…rather than a man to be revered and the root of that is his ***compromise***…***the solution he gives them is just as immoral as their desire!***

Genesis Chapter 19 Verses 10 – 11

* This is like a Stretch Armstrong scene…! I see this being supernatural in a way…obviously the striking of the men with blindness was but look at their *response.* **Repentance?** No! They groped for the door in their blindness! **Absolutely amazing!** They search for the door until they are *weary.* Heart change is a work of God…We pray so often, I pray so often for environment change or situation change when folks are going through it…what is needed is ***heart change***…or even in blindness, increased…***immensely increased difficulty***…they’ll still grope for the door to destruction.

Genesis Chapter 19 Verses 12 – 14

* Did you catch that? Lot has *sons-in-law?* Seems like one of those ***Bible difficulties*** because just a few verses ago he was offering his daughters that have not known a man…but it could be that he had ***more than the two daughters***…also, he could have been lying…or they could have been betrothed…
* So he goes and tells them and ***they think he is joking***…the effect of Lot’s loose life, no real altar life unto God, his compromise…causes him to ***not be taken seriously in serious matters***…Guzik says this, *“Lot shows us that it is possible to have a saved soul and yet a wasted life. Lot would be spared but his life would accomplish nothing…”*

Genesis Chapter 19 Verses 15 – 16

* Notice this wondrous merciful act of God. ***Lot lingered still***…didn’t want to go…**too much of his heart was in Sodom**…and yet the heavenly host…don’t miss this…***took him and them out before the judgment came upon the city!***

Genesis Chapter 19 Verses 17 – 22

* Another **entirely significant statement** that points to the rapture of the church…the angel says to Lot, *“I CANNOT do anything until you are taken out of the way!”* Nope! *“Until you are protected within the city!”* Nope! **“Until you ARRIVE there!!!”** Significant, man!!

Genesis Chapter 19 Verses 23 – 26

* Jesus would actually refer to Lot’s wife in Luke Chapter 17 to warn the Jews that at the time of the rapture, when two will be there and one will be taken, at that moment, know that He is the Son of Man…and turn to Him, **don’t turn back.** *Remember Lot’s wife*…
* Archaeological evidence is public and available for this occurrence. Sodom has been found right outside of the Dead Sea and is partially excavated, you can Google it and read about it today…layers of fertile soil, and sitting on top, ***a thick layer of sulfuric ash***…and evidence that the land was desolate for hundreds of years…There’s even a seemingly natural salt pillar that stands right outside of the city…many believe it is Lot’s wife (it’s hugely tall though)…

Genesis Chapter 19 Verses 27 – 30

* Fear *marks* Lot. A life of compromise will do that do you.

Genesis Chapter 19 Verses 31 – 38

* Just when you thought the loss of Lot could not get any worse…ironically, ***Lot carries out with his own drunkenness the shameful act that he himself suggested to the men of Sodom.*** (Sailhamer) The Moabites and the Ammonites would become enemies and obstacles for Israel…Lot is never heard from again…*man.* His life began with such opportunity, such an environment and situation of promise and privilege…but it ended worse than ruin…***at any moment, God could have changed his story…***