

Where Will You Pitch Your Tent?

Genesis 13:7-13



A Lot About Lot

- Lot mentioned 26 times in scripture
 - 20 times references self induced problems or consequences of bad decisions
 - Strife with Abram
 - Captured by evil kings, rescued by Abram
 - Targeted by men of Sodom
 - Offering daughters to men of Sodom
 - Living in a city, less than 10 righteous men
 - Mocked by his family
 - Incest with daughters



Lot a Righteous Man

- Yet, Peter calls him a righteous man
 - **2nd Peter 2:6-8**, *“...turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just (“righteous”-NKJV) 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;)...”*

Was Lot Righteous?

- He was displeased with wickedness of Sodom
- He didn't participate in the wickedness
- He was thoughtful to strangers/visitors, thus, he, *“entertained angels unawares”* (Heb. 13:2)
- He was counted righteous by Abraham who made intercession for the doomed cities
- He was among the righteous to leave Sodom
- Commanded to leave Sodom and he left

Peter's Reference Justified!

Serving God is NO Guarantee of an Easy Life

- **Jeremiah 10:23**, *“O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”*
- **Joshua 24:15**, *“...choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”*
- **Matthew 5:45**, *“...The Father ...maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”*

Points To Consider

- **Lot's choice to pitch his tent toward Sodom**
- **Consequences of Lot's decision**
 - **How to avoid similar pitfalls**

Pitching Tent Toward Sodom

- **Genesis 12:1**, Abram told to *“get the out of the country...unto a land I will shew thee.”*
- **Genesis 12:2-3**, God makes promise to Abram and blesses him
- **Genesis 12:4**, Lot introduced as family member
- **Genesis 12:5**, The journey begins, including Lot
- **Genesis 13:2-5**, Great wealth for both men
- **Genesis 13:6-9**, Strife develops
- **Genesis 13:10-12**, Lot chooses land by sight
 - If it looks too good to be true, it usually is
 - House less expensive than all others, why?
 - Used car looks good, drives great, how come?

Need God In Our Decision Making

- **James 4:13-16**, *“Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.””*

Need God In Our Decision Making

- God has all we need
 - **2nd Timothy 3:16-17**, *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*
 - **1st John 5:14**, *...this is the confidence that we have in him, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us...*
 - **James 5:16**, *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

Where Do We Pitch Our Tents?

- **Life and work based on money**
- **Entertainment based on what others enjoy**
- **Fashions based on what is socially acceptable**
- **Children making decisions in regards to dating, friends, church, etc.**

Consequences To Every Decision

- **Consider Lot's Example**
 - Grass greener, trees taller, sky bluer
 - Satan's own Garden of Eden
 - Sodom really looked good
- **God's Law's Unalterable**
 - Gravity
 - Drop an egg it breaks
 - Jump off a cliff, break neck
 - Sowing (Reap what you sow)
 - Apple seeds produce apple
 - Sinful seeds produce sin

God's Sowing Law

- **Galations 6:7-8**, *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”*
- **James 2:18**, *“...shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”*
 - Can't out-smart God's laws on sowing
 - Actions speaks louder than words

Lot's Consequences After Pitching Tent Toward Sodom

- **Genesis 14:11-12**, Carried away by evil kings
- **Genesis 19:1-11**, Tormented by fellow citizens
- **Genesis 19:12-29**, Loses almost everything
 - Wife turned to a pillar of salt
 - All his family except two children destroyed
 - Belongings lie in ashes and brimstone
- **Genesis 19:30-38**, Drunk & commits incest
- **Why did these things occur?**
 - Pitched his tent toward Sodom even though he was a righteous man!!!

David Pitched His Tent

- **David's Consequences**
 - **2nd Samuel 11:2**, *“David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.”*
- **Did David ever wish he had turned away?**
 - **Psalm 51**, Pain almost too much to bare
 - We reap what we sow
 - Must bear consequences of our actions

Avoiding Similar Pitfalls

- Leave mistakes in the past, let them go
 - **Philippians 3:13-14**, *“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.”*
 - Repent
 - Trust in God’s forgiveness
 - Focus on God and His Son
 - Press on, Move on

Avoiding Similar Pitfalls

- Understand godliness is a treasure far above all riches in this world
 - **Proverbs 15:6**, “In the house of the righteous *is* much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble.”
 - **Proverbs 16:8**, “*Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.*”
- Live the message of redeeming the time
 - **Ephesians 5:16**, “...*Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*”
 - What am I doing for God now?
 - Cast eyes on Jesus!
 - Carry cross daily!

Conclusion of the Matter

- **Lot never intended:**
 - To be in constant warfare with the evil kings
 - To live in a sin-filled neighborhood
 - To have his wife turn into a pillar of salt
 - To loose his family
 - To see all of his possessions go up in smoke
 - To get drunk and sleep with his daughters
- **He intended to live a righteous life but,
*HE CAST HIS TENT TOWARD SODOM!***

Conclusion of the Matter

- Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom
- He sowed seeds he would reap in sorrow
- The Example of the Two Father's Tents:
 - **Genesis 22**, Abraham's son, Isaac, willing to lay on an alter and be sacrificed to God
 - **Genesis 19:14**, Lot's children mocked him

What made the difference?

Where will you pitch your tent?