

The Choices of Lot

By Rev. Artie Kassimis

2 Peter 2:6-8

What stands out about Lot is that he is a believer who is totally influenced by the world.

- Lot was a carnal Christian. A carnal Christian is a Christian who is influenced more by his carnal side than his spiritual side.

The bible says that Lot was righteous but he was constantly oppressed by the filthy conduct of Sodom and Gomorrah. That made him yield to his flesh more than his spirit. He followed the world rather than the Word.

We all have one initial decision to make – do we pick heaven or hell. Jesus or no Jesus? But after that, we have a daily decision to make; do we follow the Word or the World? Lot picked the world over the Word almost every time.

We know that we have to live in this world but we are not “of” the world.

- We don’t isolate ourselves from the world or run away somewhere and live where all the Christians live.
- We are supposed to “insulate” ourselves from the world, not “isolate” ourselves. If we did isolate ourselves than no one would hear the Gospel. We are called to be in this world to show off the manifested presence of God. This provokes others to give their lives to Jesus.

Lot failed to do this. He chose the world and it oppressed him. The world wants to beat you, whip you, abuse you, and make you a part of it.

2 Peter 2:8

“Seeing and hearing their lawless deeds...”

Everyday Lot watched them sin. He saw their ungodly lifestyle. He heard them use 4 letter words everyday. Lot heard all their dirty jokes. Watched all their TV shows. (I know there was no TV back then.) The bible says “Lot’s soul was tormented.” Only a Christian can hurt this bad.

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I hate to tell you this but many of the sins mentioned in the bible are specifically told to Christians not to commit.

- The world sins. Christians aren't supposed to. But Christians do!

Do you realize that in order for a Christian to sin, they have jump over their own heart, jump over the Word of God, and jump right passed the Holy Spirit. It is a lot of work for a Christian to sin.

Christians get real creative just to sin. And they will justify their sin better than any lawyer can.

Lot served a slippery Jesus.

- When Lot needed something Jesus was number 1 on his list. When others things came up, Jesus slipped to number 2, number 3... When things went bad in his life, he ran to back to Jesus and He became number 1 again. Once things were OK, Jesus slipped out again.

Lot would always justify why he picked the world over Jesus. These choices he made affected his whole family.

For Example –

- His wife became accustomed to the lifestyle of Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - She shopped in their malls.
 - Wore their clothes. (The world wears different clothes...)
 - Lot's wife loved the world so much that when the angels came to take her out she couldn't take her eyes off of the world.
 - God had to turn her into a pillar of salt. (I will tell you why at the end of my sermon.)

When the pressure squeezed Lot the world came out of him. It wasn't the Word. So what comes out of you when the pressure squeezes you?

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James 4:4

“Do you know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?”

1 John 2:15

If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Imagine that – we, Christians, can become God’s enemy? Simply by picking the World over the Word.

These scriptures are written to and for Christians!

Let’s take a look at Lot’s choices –

Gen 13:1-8

:7

“Strife rose up between them”

Since Lot and Abraham’s people were fighting, Abraham says *“let’s fix this problem we have.”*

- Isn’t it silly when Christians can’t fix their own problems?
- Isn’t silly when the world looks at us and says – You have more problems than we do! Why have God in your life?

:10

Lot makes a very selfish decision and picks the best looking land.

- Abraham is being very nice about it and says – *“Lot you pick first and I’ll take whatever is left over.”*
 - Abraham prefers Lot over himself.
 - In the midst of Strife Abraham still prefers others over himself.
 - In the midst of Strife Abraham is still walking in love with his neighbor.
 - In the midst of Strife Abraham is a giver!

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I want you to notice what Lot did:

- He fixed in his eyes on the beauty of the land and headed for it.
- Next, we find Lot pitching a tent near Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Finally, we find Lot living in Sodom and Gomorrah.

You can not look at the world and think it won't swallow you up! He look at it and kept on looking at it and kept on looking at it and finally got caught up right in the middle of it. You start slipping away from the Lord and you will eventually wake up one day and you are in bed with the world. You will realize that you didn't just slip away God – you're miles from God!

Lot and Abraham were both the same distance from Sodom and Gomorrah at the very beginning. But Lot got influenced by it, and Abraham didn't. Why?

Throughout Abraham's life, many times, Abraham built an altar to remember God. Abraham went to this altar frequently to remember God. Abraham had a place to go where he could spend time with God. Where he could meditate and pray. Where God could speak to him. A place where he could escape the world!

Church should be one of those places, where you can escape the world!

- Politics doesn't belong in church.
- Worldly discussions don't belong in church.
- Worship belongs here!
- Prayer belongs here!
- The Word belongs here!

Lot never built an altar! Lot never had a place to go and worship God. Lot never had a place to remember God. Lot never had a place to meditate on the Word. Lot never had his alone time with God.

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God has to send Angels into Sodom and Gomorrah to get Lot and his family out. Once they are out, they were specifically told NOT to look back at what God was about to do. But Lot's wife looked back and God turned her into a pillar of salt. Why?

Here is the answer – Because Lot and his family were supposed to be salt to Sodom and Gomorrah and weren't. Therefore, God turned her into it!

You see – no matter where we live, we are called to be the Salt of the earth. We could be living in the worst places on earth but we can still be the Salt of that city. Because she wasn't the Salt while living there, God turned her into Salt for the rest of her life! This is a serious lesson for us to learn.

Don't make the same mistakes Lot did. Choose the Word over the World every day and you won't find yourself in a mess that may cost you your family.