

Sept 01, 2019



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Faithful During Distress Genesis 19:1, 4-5, 15-26, 29

Lesson Background and Introduction

Lot was a nephew of the great patriarch Abraham. Lot accompanied Abraham and his household when they journeyed from Ur to Canaan (11:31). Following a brief time in Egypt, the family returned to an area south of where the tribe of Judah eventually settles centuries later (13:1, 3). When land disputes broke out, Abraham allowed his nephew to choose the land he wanted for pasture (13:8, 9). Lot saw that the territory in the vicinity of Sodom and Gomorrah was especially desirable, so he settled nearby (13:10, 11). Along with Zoar, Sodom and Gomorrah are listed as cities located on the Jordan plain (Genesis 13:10-12; see also 14:2, 8). Genesis 13:13 offers an ominous assessment: "The men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly." Lot is a puzzling figure in the Bible. He perhaps understood from his uncle Abraham something of the Lord's righteous standards. Indeed, the New Testament depicts Lot as someone deeply troubled over the wickedness in Sodom. Second Peter 2:7 says that the Lord "delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation [or way of life] of the wicked." Verse 8 describes Lot as a "righteous man," who "vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds." However, Lot also seems to have become attached to life in Sodom despite the tension between his righteousness and the wickedness of the city. Genesis 18 begins with an account of the Lord's visit with Abraham. He was one of three "men" who came to Abraham (Genesis 18:2). After confirming the Lord's promise that Sarah would conceive and bear a son (18:10), the three "looked toward Sodom" (18:16). The Lord told Abraham of His intention to discover more about the extent of the sin within both Sodom and Gomorrah (18:20, 21). Verse 22 records that "the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the Lord." At that point the exchange between the Lord and Abraham about sparing the righteous in Sodom occurred. Because the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah became "very grievous" in the Lord's sight (18:20), He determined that judgment must be carried out on them. Despite Abraham's intercession and God's willingness to relent from judgment, both cities were to be destroyed for lack of 10 righteous people (18:22-33).

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

The Visitors - Two divine beings visited Abraham to tell him God would destroy the evil cities, and then found Abraham's nephew at Sodom's city gate. When Lot noticed the newcomers, he prostrated himself before the angels and then opened his home to the visitors. Initially the angels refused, but Lot pressed the issue, fearing for their safety. The two angels finally agreed to go home with Lot and lodge there for the night.

The Immorality - While the guests were with Lot's family, the city's young and old men surrounded the house, demanding sexual pleasure from Lot's guests. Lot begged the Sodomites to refrain, instead offering his two virgin daughters. In that day, a host protected his guests at all cost, but his actions also highlighted men's low opinion of women, seeing them as dispensable. The vicious men mocked Lot and threatened to break down the door, but the angels struck them blind.

The Rescue - The messengers revealed that God would destroy the city, and Lot and his family must flee. Lot alerted others, but in the end, he stood alone with his wife and two daughters. The angels led the family to safety but warned them absolutely no looking back. The family escaped the heavenly destructive rain of sulphur and fire that destroyed everyone and everything in Sodom and Gomorrah, but Lot's wife glanced back and instantly became a pillar of salt.

God Remains the Same - Lot is not a model of godly behavior, but God rescued him as Abraham's nephew. Like all of us, Lot made poor choices and decisions, but even if God's children violate, ignore, and sometimes disobey the Holy Spirit's guidance and instructions, the Lord continues to forgive, extending to us His unwarranted grace and mercy.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Life is not always fair, but God is always faithful

POEM FOR THE WEEK:

Trust in Him, ye saints, forever—
He is faithful, changing never;
Neither force nor guile can sever
Those He loves from Him. —Kelly

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

*So Jesus answered and said to them,
Have faith in God*

(Mark 11:22 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Sept 19, 2007)

**Series: Responding to
God's Grace**

UNIT: God is Faithful

NEXT WEEK

Faithful During Grief

(1 Samuel 1:9-20)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

God's Faithfulness to Warn (Gen 19:1, 4-5, 15-23)

Warnings through God's Word and messengers (1, 4-5, 15-17)

- Warnings through God's word about wicked actions (Jer 7:13)
- Warnings through God's word about obedience (Jer 7:23-24)
- Warnings through God's word about past examples (1 Cor 10:11)
- Warnings through God's word about false prophets (Jude 4)
- Warnings through messengers about turning back to God (Jer 25:4-5)
- Warnings through messengers about God's curses (Jer 26:5-6)
- Warnings through messengers that should not be refused (Heb 12:25)

Warnings that are questioned (18-20)

- Questioning because of feeling wronged (Job 19:4-7)
- Questioning because of bitterness (Job 27:2)
- Questioning because of feeling forsaken (Isa 59:9-11)
- Questioning because of seeing others in better situations (Jer 12:1)
- Questioning because of feeling God is slow in His deliverance (Hab 1:2-4)

Warnings that require obedience (21-23)

- Obedience to show faith (Gen 22:9-12)
- Obedience to witness (Acts 8:26-31)
- Obedience regardless of prejudice (Acts 10:19-23)
- Obedience to follow Jesus (Matt 9:9)
- Obedience because God provides a chance to resist sin (John 5:14)
- Obedience because it leads to righteousness (Rom 6:16)
- Obedience because it shows that we love God (2 John 6)

God's Faithfulness in Judgment (Gen 19:24-26)

Judgment on earth (24-25)

- Judgment on earth because of the sin of man (Rom 8:19-23)
- Judgment on earth by the hand of God (Job 12:7-11)
- Judgment on earth because of man's disobedience (Isa 24:5-7)
- Judgment on earth because of man's wickedness (Jer 12:4)
- Judgment on earth as part of man's punishment (1 Sam 15:2-4)

Judgment for disobedience (26)

- Disobedience caused by bad choices (Prov 1:29-31)
- Disobedience caused by doing evil (Jer 18:9-10)
- Disobedience caused by not knowing God (Titus 1:16)
- Disobedience caused by stubbornness and forsaking God's word (Jer 9:13-14)
- Disobedience caused by violating God's covenant (Deut 17:2-5)
- Disobedience caused by dishonoring God (Rom 2:23-24)

God's Faithfulness in Mercy (Gen 19:29)

Mercy because of promises (29)

- God is faithful to His promises and does not violate His covenants (Ps 89:33-36)
- God remembers His covenants out of His great love (Ps 106:43-45)
- God is faithful to His promises by continuing to redeem His people (Ps 111:9)
- God is faithful to His promises by upholding His people (Isa 42:6)
- God is faithful to His promises through Jesus' blood (Matt 26:28)

Mercy that delivers (29)

- Deliverance from Satan (Matt 6:13)
- Deliverance from deadly perils (2 Cor 1:10)
- Deliverance from troubles (Ps 34:19)
- Deliverance from trials (2 Peter 2:9)
- Deliverance from temptations by providing a way out (1 Cor 10:13)