



Series: Hard Truths | Big Help

INTRODUCTION

Most dangerous things in life rarely begin at first looking dangerous. A slow leak does not alarm like an explosion. A drifting ship does not feel movement at first. A small crack in a foundation can remain unnoticed until the whole structure is affected.

Few believers wake up one morning and decide to collapse spiritually. More often boundaries shift quietly, and caution weakens gradually. What once disturbed the heart becomes explainable, and what once seemed dangerous becomes all too familiar and manageable.

That is Lot's story. He did not begin in Sodom. He began looking toward it... pitching toward it... living in it... then sitting in the gate. Normal life for Lot! And God's judgment was coming!

This week's hard truth is a great danger in life and one the older generation knows very well:

What first troubles the conscience can eventually become tolerated and familiar.

1. Lot's Story – Repeated exposure to Sodom made danger feel familiar and **NORMAL**.

Genesis 13:10-12 – And Lot lifted up his eyes... and pitched his tent toward Sodom.

Genesis 14:12 – And they took Lot... who dwelt in Sodom...

Genesis 19:1 – ... there came two angels to Sodom... and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom...

Genesis 19:14 – ... But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

Genesis 19:15-16 – ...hastened Lot... lest thou be consumed... And while he lingered...

Insights:

- ✓ He saw well-watered plains, visible prosperity, and immediate advantage.
- ✓ What began near Sodom had moved inside; he participated in city services and business.
- ✓ Lot had lived so long near compromise that urgent truth no longer sounded important.
- ✓ Judgment was near, yet Lot hesitated and lingered! His sense of urgency was dulled!

Key Truths

- ✓ Many dangerous decisions begin appearing practical before revealing the spiritual cost.
- ✓ ***Desensitization*** means repeated exposure that weakens moral reaction. Lot! ***2Pet 2:7-8***

Desensitization: Reduced emotional response after repeated contact with disturbing conditions.

Habituation: A person becomes so repeatedly exposed to danger, pain, or abnormal conditions that the alarm response weakens. ("**Conscience**" – ***John 8:9; Acts 23:1; 24:16; 1 Tim 4:2; Titus 1:15***)

- ✓ People often delay leaving **what already harms them** because:
 - It is familiar and feels safer (even when harmful – *abuse, relationships, churches*)
 - Changes feel costly; identity feels connected there

- What in your life no longer alarms you that once would have?**
- Why does repeated exposure to evil, harm, lies often weaken convictions?**
- Why did Lot linger when danger was so obvious?**
- How can believers recognize drift before major damage occurs?**

2. THREE SIMILAR STORIES

SAMSON – *Judges 16* – REPEATED nearness and carelessness to what weakened him!

Insights:

- ✓ He repeatedly moved near what had already proven concerning and dangerous.
- ✓ His repeated exposure to lustful situations and danger had lowered his caution.
- ✓ His apparent complete lack of care for warning signs while fulfilling sinful desires.

Key Truth

- ✓ What should have been resisted became ***dangerously tolerated!***

SOLOMON – *1 Kings 11* – Gradual ACCEPTANCE of what divided his heart from God!

Insights:

- ✓ He tolerated influences until he had completely lost his mind in sin and compromise!
- ✓ Like Lot... compromise developed slowly, familiarity reduced alarm...no discernment!

Key Truth

- ✓ Compromise that continues long enough begins shaping choices and lifestyles.

DEMAS – *2 Timothy 4:10* – Misplaced priorities – LOVING the world more than Christ!

Insights:

- ✓ He began involved in ministry with Paul and others, but the world got more attractive!
- ✓ As the world pulled more visibly, spiritual urgency waned, and affection moved away!

Key Truth

- ✓ It is possible to love the world inside before departing for the world on the outside.

3. THE OLDER GENERATION

Listen to their Testimonies:

- ✓ “I allowed things that I would never have before...”
- ✓ “I knew something was wrong... I knew what I should do...”
- ✓ “I should have taken heed when God gave me warnings...”

YOUR TESTIMONY:

4. PRACTICAL WISDOM FOR ALL GENERATIONS

- ✓ To remedy a spiritually tolerated condition...

1. Recognize what has become NORMAL. *Psalm 139:23-24* – Search me, O God...
2. Respond early instead of WAITING. *Hebrews 3:12-13* – ...lest any of you be hardened...
3. Create DISTANCE from what weakens you. *Prov 4:14-15* – Avoid it... pass not by it...
4. Invite ACCOUNTABILITY into your life. *James 5:16* – Confess your faults... pray one...
5. Repent IMMEDIATELY when God shows you. *Ecc 8:11* – ... not executed speedily...

To all generations:

*The goal is not just **seeing** danger; it is **refusing to live** long enough with it that it feels normal!*

To the older generations:

Be an example for the younger believers; share your personal testimony of this truth.