

February 19th

THE PULL OF THE WORLD

“So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom.”

GENESIS 13:11-12

You can't hide a leopard's spots. What does this phrase imply? It means that no matter how much you try to conceal someone's character, the truth eventually comes out. This truth plays out in marriages everywhere. The honeymoon period of dating, engagement, and marriage is so sweet...but then reality sets in. The woman that you love discovers your true character. Your true loves. Your true passion. But how does this apply to our Bible man of the day, Lot?

Lot has been skewered like a shrimp on the barbeque for his place in the history of Sodom and Gomorrah. He has been condemned by God's people for his selfishness. All Abram has done for him is bring him with Abram so his family can be blessed by God also. And how does Lot repay him? He chooses the good land, while he gives the other land to Abram. So, Lot gets grief and judgment from believers everywhere. But notice again what the Bible says about Lot. 2 Peter 2:7-8 give us instruction here: "... and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard)." Did you see that Lot is called righteous not once, but three times?

What is God trying to teach us here men? God shows us that we are more like Lot than we realize. We can see in Genesis 19 that Lot isn't on the outside of Sodom...he's at the gate. Something happened to where Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom in Genesis 13 but now, we find him living in Sodom. Maybe it was convenient for business. Maybe it was convenient for shopping. The pull of the world was too much for him. And we can see that his righteous soul was tormented because of what he saw and heard. Does this sound like your own struggle against the sin that you see in the world?

As men, we like to think that we are above the sin of the world. But have you lost sight of God's warning to you men? I Corinthians 10:12 gives a solemn warning to God's men: "Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall." The fall of Lot comes because the world pulls him. It tugs at his heart. His idols weigh him down.

Men, God calls you to be vigorous to fight the sinful pull of your heart to sin. And God has given you hope. You don't fight alone. You fight with the Captain of your soul. God gives this hope directly after his warning in I Corinthians 10:12: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." God helps you gain victory! Will you commit your way to Him today?

Spend time asking God to examine your heart. Confess any way that you have drifted from Him. Ask Him for strength to guard your heart.

For Further Reading: Genesis 13:1-13