

Faith to Leave Sodom Behind

Genesis 19:15-22

Introduction:

“Prayer is the window that God has placed in the walls of our world. Leave it shut and the world is a cold, dark house. But throw back the curtains and see His light. Open the window and hear His voice. Open the window of prayer and invoke the presence of God in your world.

- Max Lucado

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

I. To leave Sodom you must have divine intercession.

A. It must be a prayer that understands the motives of God.

Genesis 18:23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

Genesis 18:25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

A Prayer That Touched the Heart of God

- ♦ When God looked at Abraham’s heart, He saw a vision of Himself. In Abraham’s heart “the Judge of all the earth had to do right”.
- ♦ God saw in Abraham’s heart how wrong it would be to destroy the righteous with the wicked.
- ♦ God saw how sincere Abraham was from his persistence to receive every ounce of Grace that could be bargained from God.
- ♦ Abraham felt so desperate in prayer that he pushed past all the limits of diplomacy. The Lord saw a prayer of fear and trembling and He responded.

B. It must be a prayer that is urgent about the mercy of God.

Genesis 18:32 And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

II. To leave Sodom you must believe in divine intentions.

A. You must believe what’s to be lost is nothing compared to what will be gained.

Genesis 19:14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

Genesis 19:16 And while he lingered, (He wanted to take Sodom into his future.)

“He then showed how great he had been sapped by living in Sodom. Attention is drawn to Lot’s weak will. A dynamic spiritual life cannot be nourished on worldliness. How reluctant he was to start.”

- John Philips

Genesis 19:26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

B. You must believe what’s to be learned is necessary to complete God’s will.

Genesis 19:27 And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD:

Genesis 19:29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.

III. To leave Sodom you must have a divine intervention.

A. To leave you must trust to Biblical intervention.

Genesis 19:12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: (V. 13) For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD ; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.

“The reaction of his sons-in-law shows that he had lost influence within his own family. Because the sons-in-law are never mentioned again, they must have died in the destruction.”

- David Jeremiah

B. To leave you must trust in benevolent intervention.

Genesis 19:16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city