

Pastor John Miller, 07-19-2026, COTR Texarkana

Title: What Would I Do...If I Was Lot?

Purpose: Provoke people to have faith in Jesus and make righteous choices and avoid becoming immersed in worldly, ungodly culture or gratify our carnal appetites.

Truth for Today: Faith in Jesus makes us righteous but if we become immersed in worldly, ungodly culture or gratify our carnal appetites we'll suffer the consequences.

Topic: Lot, Righteousness, Worldliness, Judgment, Sexual Immorality

Text: 2 Peter 2: 7-9

Series title: What Would I Do If...

Series purp.: Provoke people to follow God's will, God's Word and the Holy Spirit above all else

What Would I Do...If I Was Lot?

I. Introduction

- A. Review series: Today we'll ask ourselves the question, Title: What Would I Do...If I Was Lot? We're learning from the choices of Biblical characters, good and bad.
- B. Text: Context, the judgment of false teachers and prophets and protection of the righteous, [2 Pet 2:7-8 (NIV)] if he rescued Lot (*NLT out of Sodom*), a **righteous (justified¹)** man, who was **distressed** by the depraved conduct of the lawless ⁸ (for that **righteous** man...was **tormented** in his **righteous** soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard.) Peter said 3 times Lot was righteous, i.e. justified by God because of his faith, **BUT** he did several unrighteous things that had bad consequences.
- C. Today Lot will teach us that (1) we become righteous by faith in God and (2) God expects righteous people to live a life pleasing to Him.

II. Summarize Lot's life; Lot's righteousness is an enigma. (difficult to understand)

- A. Lot was Abraham's nephew. They were so blessed, they had to separate their herds, and Lot chose to go to Sodom and raised his family there. Sodom was so wicked, the Lord destroyed it (*Siri/ChatGPT*). The Lord spared Lot because he was righteous and He sent angels to get Lot out. The men of the city tried to have sex with the angels, but Lot offered his daughters instead. The next day, Lot his wife and 2 daughters left Sodom. His daughters' fiancés were ungodly men and stayed in Sodom. When God destroyed the city, his wife looked back and became a pillar of salt. Later his daughters got him drunk and to preserve the family lineage they had sex with dad. Sodom promised a better life but destroyed everything.
- B. Enigma: How could the NT call him righteous? Def.: (1) Righteousness is right standing with God based on faith. [Romans 4:3 (NLT)] For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and **God counted him as righteous because of his faith, (NCV his faith made him right with God)** (2) Righteous acts are doing what God says is right; It's called being godly, holy and living on the narrow path. **APP** We believe in Jesus to be declared righteous by God, AND we live a righteous life by following God's ways and rejecting worldly culture and the carnal ways of our flesh.
- C. My hope is we see where worldly culture and our carnality can take us and say NO!

III. Righteous people are supposed to do good things that please the Lord.

A. Lot's righteous actions, [(1) 2 Pet 2:7–9 (NIV) ...Lot...a **righteous (justified¹)** man... was **distressed** by the depraved conduct of the lawless...**tormented** in his **righteous** soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard] [(2) Ge. 19:1–9 (NCV) two angels came to Sodom...² Lot said...please come to my house and spend the night (*hospitality*)...[Heb. 13:2 (NLT)Don't forget to show **hospitality to strangers**, for some who have done this have entertained **angels** without realizing it!]] (3) ⁴...men both young and old...⁵...called to Lot...Bring them out to us so we can have **sexual relations** with them." ⁶ Lot...⁷... said, "**No**...Do not do this **evil thing**."] He knew homosexuality was a sin. His actions are consistent with people who follow the Lord.

1. Christians are expected to follow Jesus down the path of righteousness, i.e. our character, how we treat others, our priorities, our moral choices, etc. [1 Peter 2:11 (NLT)...**keep away from worldly desires (ESV passions of the flesh)** that wage war against your very souls. Tit 2:11–12 (ESV)...the grace of God has appeared, bringing **salvation** for all people, ¹² training us to **renounce ungodliness and worldly passions (NLT sinful pleasures)**, and to **live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age**] This is how Christians should try to live.

IV. Sadly, righteous people sometimes do bad things that God despises.

A. (Lot's unrighteous actions, (1) [Gen. 13:5–13 (NLT)] Lot...had also become very **wealthy**...⁶ But the land could not support both Abram and Lot with all their flocks...¹⁰ Lot took a long look at the **fertile plains** of the Jordan Valley...The whole area was **well watered...like the garden of the Lord**...¹² So...Lot moved his tents to a place near **Sodom**...¹³ But the people of this area were **extremely wicked and constantly sinned** against the Lord.] He knew by reputation. Lot chose the potential to be wealthy even if it meant to living in an ungodly place. (2) Ge. 19:1–9 (NCV) ⁸ Look! I have **two daughters** who have never slept with a man. I will give them to you, and you may do anything you want with them. (3) 19:15 the angels urged Lot, ...“Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters...or you will be swept away when the city is punished.” ¹⁶ When **he hesitated**... (4) [30–38 (NLT)]...the older daughter said to her sister, “There are no men left anywhere in this entire area, so we can't get married... And our father will soon be too old to have children. ³² Come, let's get him drunk... and then we will have sex with him...we will preserve our family line through our father.” Drunkenness led to incest. He not only lived in Sodom, but Sodom lived in him.

B. Lot lost everything: his wife, future sons-in-law, daughters respect, possessions and the future generations because he let the worldly culture of Sodom and his carnal desires make him abandon the righteous path.

V. Conclusion: The Holy Spirit wants to help us live a life pleasing to God.

A. [1 Thes. 5:23 (NIV) **May God himself...sanctify you (NLT make you holy)** through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept **blameless** at the **coming of our Lord** Jesus Christ.] Def Sanctification: process whereby the Holy Spirit helps us say no to the worldly culture and our carnal desires and yes to God's Word and His will. All it takes is our willingness say yes to God. Prayer

VI. Response

- A. Souls: No one can be good enough to be righteous before God. We need Jesus, the Savior to forgive our sins and declare us righteous. Problem; Solution; Decision.

VII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Gangel, K. O. (1985). [2 Peter](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 871). Victor Books.
2. Arichea, D. C., & Hatton, H. (1993). [A handbook on the letter from Jude and the second letter from Peter](#) (pp. 114–115). United Bible Societies.
3. Schreiner, T. R. (2003). [1, 2 Peter, Jude](#) (Vol. 37, p. 342). Broadman & Holman Publishers.

VIII. Supplemental material

- A. [Genesis 15:6 (NLT) And Abram believed the Lord, and **the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith.**] Lot had the same belief as Abraham.
- B. In Genesis 19 Lot hardly comes across as **a righteous man**; possibly godliness was not a consistent mark in his daily conduct. But in his standing before God he was a justified man (“righteous,” occurring three times in 2 Peter 2:7–8, is *dikaion*, “justified”). This is evidenced by the fact that Lot **was distressed** (*kataponoumenon*, “tormented, oppressed”; used only here and in Acts 7:24 in the NT) by the enormity of iniquity all around him. The people in those twin cities were **filthy** (*en aselgeia*, “in sexual debauchery”; in 2 Peter 2:2 *aselgeia* is “shameful”), **lawless** (*athesmōn*, “unprincipled”; used only twice in the NT: here and in 3:17), and involved in **lawless** (*anomois*, “without any standard or law”) **deeds**. Besides being distressed, Lot **was** also **tormented** (*ebasanizen*, “tortured, tormented”; cf. Matt. 8:29) **in his righteous soul** (lit., “he tormented [his] righteous soul”). Seeing and hearing about all their vile ways **day after day** grieved Lot to the point of inner torture.¹
- C. Lot’s attitude toward the conditions of his environment is now described: he was *greatly distressed by the licentiousness of the wicked*. This can be treated simply as a description of Lot or as a reason for Lot being regarded as righteous: he deserves to be called *righteous* because of his attitude toward evil; this latter possibility relates this verse to verse 8, which has further descriptions of Lot as a righteous man.²
- D. Modern readers, of course, are struck by the fact that he offered his daughters, and clearly Lot was not without fault. Nonetheless, ancient readers would have saluted his courage in trying to protect those who were in his house, a matter of great danger when the whole city was at his doorstep.³
- E. Our prayers can keep people we care about safe
1. Genesis 19:29 (NLT) But God had listened to Abraham’s request and kept Lot safe, removing him from the disaster that engulfed the cities on the plain.
 2. Ezekiel 16:49 (NLT) Sodom’s sins were pride, gluttony, and laziness, while the poor and needy suffered outside her door.
- F. We get right with God by believing in Jesus. We stay right by following God’s Word and His will.

G. We can be righteous people who do righteous things and are rewarded by God or be righteous people who do unrighteous things and suffer the consequences.