

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

Finishing (Un)Well – Genesis 19, part 3

³⁰ Now Lot went up out of Zoar and lived in the hills with his two daughters, for he was afraid to live in Zoar. So he lived in a cave with his two daughters. ³¹ And the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of all the earth.

³² Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father." ³³ So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father. He did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

³⁴ The next day, the firstborn said to the younger, "Behold, I lay last night with my father. Let us make him drink wine tonight also. Then you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father." ³⁵ So they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. ³⁶ Thus both the daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father. ³⁷ The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to this day. ³⁸ The younger also bore a son and called his name Ben-ammi. He is the father.

Lot's riches to rags story:

From Abram's side and sharing great wealth ...

To his cozying up to a profane society for material and personal gain ...

To the loss of his wife and material possessions ...

To a cave and unspeakable acts with his own daughters ...

Some questions from the text:

Why didn't Lot return to _____, since none of the reasons he left remained?

What happened to Lot's (future) "sons-in-law"?

What is the opposite of _____?

How do decisions made in fear tend to turn out?

How could his daughters have such a corrupted _____?

To what degree is Lot morally _____ for what happened here?

Is there a _____ here concerning the effects of _____?

How do we _____?

Some painful lessons:

_____ is not something that can be conjured up in the moment of need or crisis. It must be _____ over a lifetime in order to be there when you need it most. It seems that much of Lot's life is marked by a lack of it.

You absolutely cannot underestimate the _____ of the culture that you become accustomed to or complacent in. Each of us must actively fight the " _____ " power of this world for our own sakes and for the sakes of our _____. (Romans 12:2)

Those girls were out of Sodom, but Sodom was not out of them.

Whose fault is that?

The _____ of the sin of Lot's daughters is their lack of _____. That they would sin in such a horrific way is a statement of their lack of _____.

Don't _____ with this world. At its best, its pleasures are temporary. At its worst, it is bound for destruction. Love for this world will _____ your spirit and will _____ your future (and likely the futures of those you care about).

Personal diagnostic questions:

Do I _____ what God hates?

Do I _____ what God hates?

Do I _____ what God hates?

If the circumstances* around me threaten my spiritual health (or my family's), or pressure me beyond my ability to resist to condone or conform to a sinful pattern, then I must change my circumstances! (And again, don't underestimate the GRADUAL effects that sin has and how it GRINDS DOWN our sensitivity and resistance to it.)

Am I being _____?

Am I _____?

_____ can catastrophically affect _____, _____, and _____.

Drinking alcohol can make it hard for you to think clearly and make good decisions. It can make it more likely that you will get into potentially harmful or dangerous situations that you will regret the next day. Alcohol changes brain chemistry, which in turn impacts moods, behaviors, thinking, memory, and physical movement and bodily functions, which may have costly side effects.

(<https://www.alcohol.org/effects/inhibitions/>)

Some thoughts on the unspeakable acts in this passage:

The culture these girls grew up in had _____ human sexuality ...

Lot already destroyed the sanctity of _____ in the minds of his daughters and their _____ ...

Perhaps, having such a poor moral example, and having endured such horrific _____, they felt they had no other _____ (what a tragedy!) ...

A Final Question – Is Lot in heaven?

⁶... if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; ⁷ and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked ⁸ (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); ⁹ then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment ...

2 Peter 2:6-9

Conclusion:

Lot was a "righteous" man who also _____ egregiously and finished poorly.

And the _____ of finishing poorly can be _____.

A Sad Epilogue:

Their two sons, children of Lot, were to become nations, near neighbours of Abraham's descendants, related to them by standing for a totally different and incompatible way of life.

The Moabites worshipped a fertility god and indulged in orgies which beguiled the Israelites on their way into the promised land (Nu. 25). Ammon became noted for cruelty not only in war (Am. 1:13) but even in religious observance (Lv. 18:21), for Molech was the Ammonite god who demanded child sacrifice.

(J.A. Motyer, The Message of Genesis, pp. 80)

25 While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. ² These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. ³ So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel. ⁴ And the Lord said to Moses, "Take all the chiefs of the people and hang them in the sun before the Lord, that the fierce anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel." ⁵ And Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Each of you kill those of his men who have yoked themselves to Baal of Peor."

⁶ And behold, one of the people of Israel came and brought a Midianite woman to his family, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of the whole congregation of the people of Israel, while they were weeping in the entrance of the tent of meeting. ⁷ When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose and left the congregation and took a spear in his hand ⁸ and went after the man of Israel into the chamber and pierced both of them, the man of Israel and the woman through her belly. Thus the plague on the people of Israel was stopped. ⁹ Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand.

- Numbers 25:1-9