**Genesis 19:1-26**

***The High Cost Of Living In Sodom***

Introduction

1. *I will spare the city for 10 righteous souls.* Two angels (looking like men) walk to Sodom.

2. What is the high cost of living in Sodom? There is a price to pay.

3. In Genesis 19:1-26 Lot was in Sodom. *Lot vexed his righteous soul (II Pt. 2:8) Vexed* means, to torment, to exhaust from toil. Lot's righteous soul was battered, exhausted. There is a high cost when we choose to live in Sodom.

What is the high cost of living in Sodom? There is a price to pay.

**I. WE ARE NO LONGER SEPARATED 19:1**

*Lot sat in the gate at Sodom.* This was a place of authority. Perhaps he was even a magistrate.

 He would hear all the ‘news’ of the city. He would meet and greet every visitor.

1. Abraham was in the world, but not of it. He was a pilgrim and stranger looking for a city whose builder and maker was God. We can live this way also. It is possible!
2. Lot’s lack of separation didn’t ‘just happen’. It happened gradually:
3. Genesis 13:12 *Lot…pitched his tent toward Sodom.*
4. Genesis 14:12 *Lot…dwelt in Sodom.* He was captured and rescued by Abraham, but he still goes back! It was a conscious choice.
5. Genesis 19:1 *Lot…sat in the gate.*
6. What happened to our standards and values? Gradually, slowly, over time ‘termites eat’ into a structure until it is not safe for habitation. We are so afraid of being legalistic that we have little or no convictions.

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**II. WE ARE NO LONGER SHOCKED 19:2-11**

Lot must have sensed something special about these men, or they may have told him.

1. ***He Had a Lot of Stuff*** Stuff can make us insensitive and cause us to compromise.

*v. 2 “Come home with me, tarry all night” “No we will abide in the street all night.”*

*v. 3 He made them a feast…*either his wife isn’t home or she will not entertain these visitors. These are Lot’s guests, *he made them a feast.* Lot was recognized and wealthy. Materialism is killing the church of Jesus Christ. The Church in America is rich. Joseph Tson a Romanian pastor who was persecuted by the Communist: *We are praying for the church in America.* How are you praying? *How do you pray when you have everything?*

We are like the church in Laodecia: *You are increased with goods and have need of nothing and you know not that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.*

Rev. 3:20 ***Let Me In:*** *Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice and open the door I will come in…*

1. ***He Had Lost His Standard*** He had nothing to measure right and wrong. Homosexuality was an alternative lifestyle. It was not considered sin.

**1.** *v. 4* The city was filled with homosexuality. The city was divided into quarters either by nationality or trades. All men young and old compassed Lot’s house.

**2.** *v. 5* *Bring them out…*they would sexually assault them. This may have been the most depraved city ever. Lot had taken them home because he knew what would happen to them. Though the act of homosexuality is abhorred by God, He calls it impure and unnatural. There is a spiritual truth that is often overlooked. The marriage relationship is between a man and a woman, and it portrays man’s relationship to God. The homosexual relationship portrays a man finding spiritual fulfillment apart from God. This is a lie! I read: *Because of this truth, this sin has become characteristic of virtually every decadent society in history on the verge of collapse through moral rebellion to the laws of God.*

**3.** *v. 7* Lot isn’t shocked. This was the normal way of acting in Sodom. Never in recorded history was homosexuality so prevalent.

**4.** *v. 9* Have you heard this: *Who are you to judge us?* These caught up in the perverted act feel that those who have a different standard are self-righteous. So the mob was going to attack Lot. They don’t care whose rights they violate!!

**5.** *v. 10, 11* The angels intervened. *Blindness* The Hebrew word (found only here and in II Kings 6:18) conveys the idea of loss or distortion of vision resulting in mental confusion and bewilderment. Evidently the ‘blindness’ did not leave the victims sightless, but a blindness of confusion. They could see, but they could not identify where they were. *They could not find the door to break it in..they wearied*  themselves trying to find the doorway (NASV)

**6.**The heart of man doesn’t change just because of tragedy.

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**III. WE ARE NO LONGER SENSITIVE 19:8**

*I have two daughters who have not known a man…do to them what is good in thy sight.*

1. Some say because of the law of hospitality, the host was to protect the guests at all cost.
2. Can’t you see what you are doing to your children? Your values become theirs.
3. In Sodom, children lose their value. How do you think these girls felt? It’s easy to sacrifice your children in Sodom for yourself. We see child abuse…child pornography. Children have lost the age of innocence. The average age a child views porn is 8 years of age, and many, many years earlier.

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**IV. WE ARE NO LONGER TAKEN SERIOUSLY 19:12-14**

1. ***The Desire 12*** The angels mention 10 who may be righteous: *Wife…two virgin daughters…Sons in law and their wives…bring them out of this place.* In 19 years Lot had impacted no one…not even his own family.
2. ***The Destruction 13*** *We are about to destroy this place because their outcry has become so great…the Lord has sent us to destroy it.* There is a God of love, but there is a God of wrath!
3. ***The Deliberation 14*** To the sons in law: *“Up get out of this place, for the Lord will destroy the city”* Lots sons in law and daughters having rejected his warning apparently perished (v. 16). *But he seemed as one who mocked…joked…jested…*the ‘old man’ was a joke. If you look, walk, talk and act like the world don’t expect them to take you seriously when you talk about spiritual things. A beer in your hand, spouting the F bomb and talking about Jesus will not be taken seriously.

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**V. WE ARE NO LONGER SURRENDERED 19:15-26**

If God says, judgment is coming...judgment is coming!

1. ***He Continued 15, 16*** *While he lingered…they brought him outside the city.*

He had to go for his I Phone…Apple Computer…Stock Certificates…Memories…

He had nothing to show for his life. **Sodom represents the world and the very best Satan has to offer. Something was more important to Lot than God and it would soon be gone!**

1. ***He Compromised 17-22***

*Flee to the mountains v. 20 to Zoar…Tiny Place*

1. He was out of Sodom, but Sodom wasn’t out of Lot!
2. It was his last chance to walk by faith and Lot refused it! **Be careful when you pray for circumstances or things. One day they will be gone. BE CAREFUL!**
3. ***His Wife Crystallized 23-26***
4. **The Fire 24** *Brimstone and fire…*deposits of sulfur (brimstone) and asphalt (cf 14:10) have been found in this area. Possibly an earthquake occurred and lightning ignited the gases that were released, causing a rain of fire and smoke.
5. **The Fate 25** The five cities today may be buried in the south end of the Dead Sea.
6. **The Finality 16** *But his wife from behind him looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.* Lot’s wife, who was trailing behind him with her heart still in Sodom, *looked back*, died and possibly was enveloped by blowing *salt*, which formed a ‘pillar’ around her body. This event was used by Jesus as a warning to others not to look back (Luke 17:21-23). Are you endeavoring to hang on to your life in Sodom? Let it go. **Nothing remained! *If everything were gone, what would you have left?***

**THAT’S ALL YOU HAVE!**