**Genesis 19:27-38**

***When Our World Goes Up In Smoke***

Introduction

1. Has your world gone up in smoke?

2. In Genesis 19:27-38 *smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace v. 27…*We see 3 reactions that are typical in a smoking world.

Has your world gone up in smoke? When our world goes up in smoke: 3 reactions

**I. SOME PRAY 19:27-29**

God is trying to teach Abraham and us. **When we have God we need nothing else!**

1. ***His Way 27***

Literally: *where he* ***always*** *stood before the Lord.* This was a way of life, and not just because he saw the smoke in the valley. This is the way not to become overwhelmed with the world.

1. **A Special Procedure** *rose early…*Abraham always got up early to meet the Lord. If at all possible, meet God early. *Satan will always find you something to do when you ought to be occupied with prayer and the Word, if it is only arranging a window blind. Hudson Taylor*
2. **A Special Place** *went to the place…*Abraham had a special place to go. Go to that closet and shut the door. How many of you have a place everyday where you go and meet God?
3. **A Special Presence** *where he stood before the Lord…*Not "may stand" before the Lord. Every morning he stood before the Lord for examination…for instruction…for communication. Sit at His feet. What is missing in ‘devotions?’ To know Him is our highest calling. *At His feet:* We come to the end of ourselves. We put life into perspective. We will develop a burden for the lost. We will renew our thoughts of God. We will receive true satisfaction from God. We will develop a boldness for God. **This is so needed when the smoke begins to rise.**
4. ***His Walk 28***
5. **He Looked** *He looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah…*
6. **He Learned** *The smoke of the country went up as smoke of a furnace.*

He viewed from a distance, but he saw things as they really were. He was in the world, but not of it. He needed nothing else.

*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world, if any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world is passing away and the lust of it, but he that does the will of God abides forever. (I John 2:15-17)* **Hold this world very loosely.**

1. ***His Witness 29a***
2. *God destroyed the cities.* That’s God’s evaluation of homosexuality. Four cities were destroyed. Zoar in the Southeast corner was spared. The north end of the Dead Sea is 1200’ deep and the South end is not more than 16’. It covered the cities!
3. *God remembered Abraham.* This is not a recall of something forgotten. It means to fondly recall…His intercession, His faithfulness, His heart. God takes note. Does God remember you? If so, for what? *Remember the day of my salvation.*

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**II. SOME PURSUE 19:29b-34**

 **All is gone!** His home, family (wife, sons-in-laws, daughters, etc.) prestige, position, possessions, all

 he had worked for, all he lived for, all he thought he wanted, **are all gone!! The flesh is never**

 **satisfied. The flesh is never at rest.**

1. ***His Resources*** *out of the midst (in the middle)…Lot dwelt (to be at home)*
2. It was all here and now. It was all the immediate.
3. **It was all gone!**
4. ***His Restlessness 19, 20, 30***
5. Initially Lot was to go to the mountain. He argued with God and went to Zoar.
6. Now *he went up out of Zoar…he dwelt in the mountain.*
7. **You can never find rest until you find your rest in God. You are never satisfied. You are never pleased with anything for long.**
8. ***His Running 30b***

*He feared to dwell in Zoar*

1. He dwelt in one of the many caves around the southern end of the Dead Sea with his two daughters. You never run alone. It affects many, many others!
2. When the life is lived for the here and now we must always flee. **Fear leads to flight!**
3. *God’s curse be upon him.*
4. ***His Ruin 31-33***

You can never trust anyone walking in the flesh. **The flesh is capable of anything!**

*Made their father drunk…*next day…*Made their father drunk.* This is where Lot turned as a solution to his problems.

1. How do you handle problems? Lot brought very little with him, but he did bring wine. Perhaps to forget his troubles. This is the second time wine is mentioned in a bad light. (9:21, 24) Noah was naked. Ham was cursed. I am totally against the consumption of alcohol. What about a social drink? What about recreational drinking? The problem isn’t going to heaven. The question is *what’s best*? *If meat causes a weaker brother to stumble, I won’t eat meat.*
2. He does what he would not do when he was sober. His daughters must first get him drunk.
3. What he does he cannot remember. *He perceived not.*
4. Where do you turn in the smoke and pressures of life. Is it a substitute for the living God?

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**III. SOME PANIC 19:34-38**

 **Flesh is always in a hurry to get what we want!**

1. ***Flesh Is Reasonable 31, 32b*** The reason for this action is not lust (19:8 they kept themselves pure for their husbands).
2. Now suddenly it seemed they would never have a husband.
3. Now their brothers, sisters, mother had perished. Neither they nor their father would leave a descendant. In view of God’s command: *Be fruitful and multiply* and a universal belief that barrenness was a disgrace…**they must do something!!**
4. There would be no one to provide for them in their old age. There was no law against it. Abraham had married his half sister. **They talked themselves into wrong being o.k.** *“You never do wrong to do right”. Bob Jones*
5. The flesh can be so reasonable…an affair…stealing…lying…getting drunk or high…gossip…being unkind…etc. can all sound o.k.
6. ***Flesh Is Relentless*** They get their father drunk on two successive days.
7. *“I want what I want, and I want what I want NOW!”*
8. The flesh is always in a hurry. The problem of premarital and extra marital relations is NOW! I don’t buy anything over the phone or at the door…NOW!
9. *“Pray about it for 6 months, if you feel as you do now, go ahead.”* My father’s advice when we were going to start a church.
10. If it is against God’s Word…**doesn't matter how you feel!** Our feelers are usually wrong. **You can never trust your emotions!**
11. ***Flesh Is A Recruiter 31, 34*** *The older sister said unto the younger…The first born said to the younger.* With the *younger…****it is always someone else’s fault!***
12. **T**his is peer pressure to do what isn’t right.
13. If those we admire and respect say it’s o.k., it must be o.k. **Wrong never becomes right, no matter who does it. DO RIGHT!**
14. ***Flesh Brings Results 36-38*** The flesh always results in negative consequences. *Moab* means, ‘son of their father’. *Ben Ammi* means, ‘son of the nearest kinsman’. The Moabites and Ammonites were a continual pain to Israel. One night of pleasure may result in years of heartache!

***Lessons from Lot***

**God wants total commitment and absolute surrender.**

**We are never commanded to give God our best. We are to give God our lives!**

That is the BIG difference. Christianity is to lay down one life in exchange for Another...His life. Allowing that Person freedom to live His life through us.

**At some time in your Christian walk you stop playing around and once and for all turn your life over to the King. Quit trying to live the Christian life and give God all and everything!**