

The Old-Time Evangelistic News

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Volume 12, Issue 3

August 2015

What Are You Doing In Your Seat? (Part 6)

Genesis 19:1; Daniel 2:49

Last month we finished up with a few thoughts about The Cost in this Tragedy of Lot. Keep in mind! Remember it! Do not forget! Sin always has a cost! In the midst of the sin, it will seem enjoyable. That is why you must avoid beginning that sin. You must be aware at all times that Satan and his demons will put temptations before you. Although it may seem hard to do, there is never a down time in regards to temptation. We may identify a certain place as a place of safety, but it may turn out to be the place where we succumb to temptation. I would think that a church would be a safe haven, but many affairs have been started by people who go to church together. Your home may appear to be a place to relax, but many sins are committed at home. The devil is always walking about, “*seeking whom he may devour*” (I Peter 5:8). Since he is not omnipresent, he cannot tempt everyone all the time. But he does have a host of demons, along with the world and our own flesh. With those three enemies, we must constantly be aware of the possibility of giving in to temptation and the resulting consequences.

Sin always has a price, and Lot paid heavily. The first aspect of The Cost for Lot was *The Destruction of his Witness*. Last month, we covered the details where Lot tried to warn the men in town and his own sons in law. Neither group had any use for what Lot was saying. The men became angry when Lot tried to stop what they were doing. His offer of his daughters was rejected. From what the men said, it seems that they were offended that Lot said that their actions were wicked. Lot’s words were rejected. His witness had lost its impact.

Lot then tries to warn his sons in law about the coming destruction. Genesis 19:14 says, “*But he seemed as one that mocked*

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unto his sons in law.” They thought he was joking. By becoming part of Sodom, Lot thought that he might have more influence. But instead of gaining influence, he lost all hope of reaching the ones he thought he might reach. They had no use for what he was saying. You can NEVER reach the world by becoming like the world! Lot is the greatest and most obvious example of that.

You would think that people would remember Lot and how his testimony was not effective to those around him. When the message of judgment came, he tried to tell others, but they would not listen. Yet in spite of the example of Lot, today people are saying that to reach the world, you have to be like the world. They say to bring the world’s music into the church. That will enable us to reach them. We can have rock music, add some Christian words, and then give them the Gospel. But doing wrong by mixing the world’s music with Christian words will never reach the world. Lot became part of Sodom and even reached a governing position, but he was so much like the people of Sodom in his activities that they had no use for his testimony. I will say it again and again—You never reach the world by becoming like the world! Obviously, we are in the world, but the world should not be in us! The music, ideas, language, etc., of the world should not characterize our lives as believers. Repeatedly we are told to be holy (I Peter 5:16), to not be conformed to this world (Romans 12:2), to not be friends with the world (James 4:4), and to not love the world (I John 2:15). There are many other passages that I could list, but those will suffice to prove the point that the world is not to influence us. We are to influence the world, but we cannot and will not ever make an impact on the world by becoming like the world. It is contrary to the nature of God Himself, contrary to the Word of God, and offensive to the world itself. Lot lost his testimony by becoming like the world. If we ever start becoming like the world, we will lose any hope of reaching them. The only hope of the world is separated, holy people of God. That does not mean all people will accept our message even when we are living right. Many rejected Stephen, Paul, and others. When we live right, many will reject us. But the only hope we have of reaching anyone is by living holy lives

that are pleasing to God. Sadly, Lot did not and saw the Destruction of his Witness.

The destruction of his witness was terrible for Lot, but it does not stop there. Lot's desire for Sodom also cost him *The Death of his Wife*. As the next morning comes, the angels tell Lot and his family that it is time to leave. Amazingly, Sodom has such a hold on them that they linger, and the angels take them by the hand and forcefully remove them. They then give a stern warning, "*Escape for thy life; look not behind thee.*" The break from Sodom was to be so clear that they would not even look back at it. Looking back would express a yearning for what was there. The people and activities of that city were so wicked that God was about to pour out His judgment upon it. There should be no desire for the things of that city. It was a reproach to God, therefore it should be a reproach to God's people. Lot and his family should be thankful that God spared them and willing to do whatever He said. If God said that the city was wicked, then that should be good enough for them. They should ask forgiveness for their acceptance of the wickedness and make a clean and total break with any connection to that city. That is what God is saying through the angels when they are told not even to look back. To look back would mean that they would want the things of Sodom. To look back would mean that they would want what God said was wicked. To look back would mean that they did not want God, but would want wickedness. Why would anyone want to look at what God wanted to destroy?

Would any of them look back? We have read the account, so we know that one of them did. Genesis 19:26 says, "*But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.*" How tragic that Lot's wife would do such a thing! God wanted her out of Sodom and sent angels to remove her and her family, but she wanted to stay in Sodom. She was removed from Sodom, but Sodom was still in her heart. Why did she look back? The Bible does not say, so we can only conjecture that it was the people or the possessions that she loved. Maybe it was a little of both. She liked the people that did not

care for restraints of any kind. She liked their openness to sin and all of its depravity. She loved their cavorting around and open rebellion to God. She loved her house and all of the possessions that were in it. She did not want to give them up even if it meant being disobedient to God. She made a choice—she looked back for one more glimpse of the wickedness and possessions that she loved—and God turned her into a pillar of salt. Why did God turn her into a pillar of salt? Perhaps as a lasting reminder to everyone of God's hatred of mixing the world and truth. He told them to get out and not even to look back. Lot's wife proved that she loved the world more than God.

Lot's wife is mentioned only one other time in Scripture. In Luke 17:32, Jesus says, "*Remember Lot's wife.*" He says this in the midst of many verses on the second coming. There are many reasons Jesus may have said this, but I will mention that perhaps He said it as a call to not love the things of this world. Lot's wife obviously loved Sodom enough to look back when she was told not to look back. May no possession of this world cause us to lose sight of complete devotion and complete obedience to God's Word.

Lot looked up and chose Sodom. He loved it enough to move into the city and become one of its leaders. But it was a place that God described as wicked. In ignoring what was obvious to God, Lot chose a place devoted to selfishness and abominable activity. What did he hope to gain? Did he want wealth? He had that and could have had more just by staying with Abram. Did he want a position of importance? He obtained that by his seat at the gate, but he could have been important by staying with Abram. Whatever he hoped to gain by moving to Sodom, it was not worth it. He lost his testimony and his wife. But there is one more price to pay, and it gets even worse.

As bad as losing his testimony and his wife could be (and they are absolutely horrible), the third cost is so horrific that it is beyond imagination. It is *The Display of Wickedness*. As the angels are

leading Lot and his family out of Sodom, they tell them to flee to the mountain. Lot offers a pitiful excuse of being afraid to go to the mountain and asks permission to stay in a nearby city, Zoar. The angels grant that permission, but Lot and his daughters become afraid of staying in Zoar and go to the mountain that they had originally been told to go to by the angels. For some reason the daughters think that they will never be able to get married and have children. Maybe they think there is some stigma associated with them because they have escaped Sodom. Regardless of why, they concoct a scheme to make their father drunk and lie with him, so they can have children. The depravity and abomination of Sodom is still alive in them. They, like their mother, still love Sodom! They have been physically removed from Sodom, but Sodom's ideas and perversion are in their hearts. They carry out their plan and both are with child of their father. Lot perhaps went to Sodom for the benefit of his family. He wanted them to have the best of everything, and it appeared that Sodom would afford them the opportunity to achieve it. It might have given them a few worldly possessions, but it also filled their minds with the worst of all possible ideas. Lot wanted everything the world had to offer. In return, he lost his testimony, wife, and the purity of his children. The world may look appealing, but it pays terribly. Just ask Lot. He lost everything. Please do not relive Lot's tragedy. We will look at another option next month when we begin studying the Triumph of Daniel.