

Title: Sodom and Gomorrah

Text: Gen. 18:1-21:34

Genesis chapter 18 and 19 is the story of Sodom and Gomorrah. I am going jumping around and I invite you to follow along in your Bibles.

(Read Gen. <sup>omit</sup> 18:1-3, <sup>20-32</sup> 16-22; 19:1-16, 24-29)

Prayer

Now, this is an unbelievable story for many people as they look at fire coming out of heaven and destroying cities. But I remind you that there is no record of those cities <sup>on</sup> of the southern edge of the Dead sea. And if you would go to the land of Israel, even today, you will find that there are no towns or cities in that part of the land. God's testimony and God's judgement has wiped out the cities <sup>in that area</sup> of the south that were on the south of the dead sea.

Now you will remember that they have already experienced a little bit of blessing from Abraham's life. Because back in chapter 14 we learned that the five kings of the south were in a war with the four kings of the north, had their city plundered; and they were taken captive with all of their goods and were taken north. And Abraham with his 318 trained servants went after them and captured them and brought the prisoners back including Lot and his family; and the king of Sodom was very grateful. And he offered some of the goods to Abraham. But Abraham said that he didn't want any of the goods "least you say that it was me and not God who saved you."....So, the men of Sodom and Gomorrah had already seen the power of God. They have already been admonished to look to the Lord for deliverance. ....But, they soon forgot that message....And it is clear from chapters 18 and 19.

(1C) I want to share the tragedy of Sodom and Gomorrah with you in four ways.

1D) First of all, the wickedness of those cities....The world knows much about this. People who don't even know the Bible can talk to you a little bit about Sodom and Gomorrah *and how wick they were.*

We have even coined the term...Sodomy...based upon that city of Sodom.

I want to share with you three things in regards to this wickedness.

(1E) Number one is mentioned in chapter 18:20.....In Chapter 18 Verse 20 "the lord said" ~~and this is~~ to Abraham, "the outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave."

Now, chapter 19:13...."for we are about to destroy this place because their outcry has become so great before the Lord that the Lord has sent us to destroy it."

<sup>So</sup>~~Now~~, the first thing that I notice is that the condition of those things that were going on in those cities became so great that it came to the attention of the Lord in terms of judgment. He knew what was going on. And the cry of the city was great.

~~Now~~ The word "cry" has the idea in its root form, of "a bitter cry".

All the sin, and all the corruption of that city did not led to happiness. <sup>You know, there are many people, today who are</sup> ~~If you are one of those~~ pleaser seeking Epicureans <sup>who</sup> ~~that~~ says, "eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die." <sup>Now, please remember</sup> I warn you that not only is death the ultimate factor of everyone of us which should certainly cause us to ask: "what am I going to do after that?"...."or is there life after death?... But, more than that, the Epicurean philosophy does not led to happiness, it leds to crying and bitter trouble in your life and frustration. And the worlds great sinners are a constant testimony to the worlds great unhappiness.

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked. Forsoever a man soweth that shall he ~~reap~~ reap....The bitter cry of that city and all of their corruption: their desire to seek new pleasers, some new sexual fulfillment, and they had fallen to the bottom of moral <sup>impurity</sup> degradation. All of this became a bitter cry that came to the ears of God. And discribes, somewhat, the terrible conditions of those cities.

(2E) Secondly, I notice that the corruption of the people was very <sup>grievous</sup> ~~grievous~~ According to the Bible in Genesis chapter 18:20: it says: "their sin is exceedingly grave" <sup>or grievous</sup>

*omit*  
Now the word "very" or "exceedingly" in Hebrew means "might" or "strength". And it is most often translated "exceedingly."

The point being: that the sin and corruption had come to a maximum level ..It is so great, now, so ~~st~~ severe, so exceedingly bad, that it deserves the judgement of God.

*on*  
Did you know that the Bible teaches that God's plan is nations. *We* had already seen that principle. God's plan for human history involves nations. Acts ~~11:26~~ 17:26 says that God has made of one blood all the peoples of the world. And he has appointed the bounds of their habitations. God has selected nations as his plan. And through out human history *He* has used this in order that all men may keep the Lord.

And did you, also know, that those nations who come to a maximum level of sin and rejection of the commandments of God, according to the Bible, will be destroyed by other nations. That God will use other nations to punish nations who come to a maximum level in their society of rejecting the standards of God's Word.....

Now there is much we could say and apply and give facts about how America is going down the road that is going to lead to judgement....But, I am really not interested in that subject this morning. I am more interested in the life of one man.....whose name was Lot...who lived in the middle of all of that. *Concept* And the question is not what the nation is going to do. The question is WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? The individual Lot's who live in the midst of all of this corruption.....

We can set and cry about what is happening in our nation. But, the issue is what are we doing as individual people in living for God.

The corruption was very great. The Hebrew word "grievous" means "a heavy burden." It was an exceedingly heavy burden. Most often translated "to harden."...*And // By The Way*

*nt*  
For example, in the book of Exodus, "the Lord harden Pharaoh's heart." Same root word...translated here "grievous" or "grave"...In other words:

There sin had come to the point that it was like a heavy burden that was now harden and insensitive to its <sup>own</sup> sin. (That is what happen~~s~~ to people who continue on in their sin. They keep going. And sin feedss on sin. And before long ~~the~~ they are insensitive. They are hard. You could ~~sick~~ stick a pin in the sore and it would not hurt. You don't feel any pain.

And so the cities of the valley have not become hardened to a maximum point in their society and God says: I AM GOING TO DESTROY THEM....

(3E) The tird thing I learn about the wickedness of those cities is that the coming of judgement was absolutely necessary.

God says so in Chapter 19:13....."we will destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the Lord that the Lord has sent us to destroy it."

Listen, the coming judgement is necessary when you have maximum level of sinning, and rejection of the standard of God's Word.

People often ask me, "Isn't the United S~~at~~tes in prophecy?" What we really mean by that question, down deep inside of us, is: "I sure hope that God willn't wipe us out."....

Listen, the U.S. is not named in prophecy. I have no idea where we belong. Some people say, "Well, maybe we are part of the 10 nation confederacy<sup>on</sup> that is spoken of in the book of Revelation as being a kind-of common market. A revived Roman empire....Listen, they have their 10 nations. And we are not included.

So, if this is the time of the end. And remember God could re-organize all the nations of the world and fool us all. But, if this is the time of the end and Christ is coming, I remaind you that the U.S. is not involved ~~Add/I/~~ But, I am telling you that God's Word will be true. When maximum level of rejection of standards comes to this nation, and it is fast approaching that level, God teaches in his Word that he will used another nation to destroy that nation. The coming of judgement is absolutely necessary.....~~According to Jude 7 the example of Sodom and Gomorrah who~~

*and* According to ~~the~~ Jude 7, the example of Sodom and Gomorrah who went after strange flesh to corrupt themselves immorally, the Bible says they are a living example of those who deserve the judgement of the everlasting ~~fire~~ Fire.....I didn't say that.....God ~~aid~~ aid.....The Bible teaches that those who corrupt themselves to <sup>The</sup> point of Sodom and Gomorrah are deserving the judgement of ~~the~~ Hell, itself. The final Hell, <sup>The</sup> everlasting fire, as spoken of in the Book of Revelation 20:15. *The Wickedness of Those Cities*

(2D) There is a second thing, however, which speaks to the tragedy of Sodom and Gomorrah. And that is the worldliness of Lot.

And there are three area in which we see the worldliness of Lot.

(1E) Number one, we have looked at ~~an~~ already in our message from Gen 13.

But lets look at it again by way of remembrance. Genesis 19:1 says "that Lot sat in the gate of Sodom."

Now, he wasn't out their for his health or a breath of fresh air. He was seating in the leadership of the city. Those tunnel gates had seats built within them. <sup>in</sup> And the elders of the city sat there ~~in~~ order to conduct the business of the city. Lot had now compromised to the point that in his leadership he is now seating with the wicked men of Sodom.

*believe* I remaind you that Lot is a <sup>Christian man</sup> ~~righteous man~~. The Bible says he is a ~~Christian~~. He was a believer according to 2 Peter 2:7-8. But, how he had compromised and corrupted himself. He was a carnal christian. And in his leadership of the city it becomes evident of how worldly he really was.

A lot of us have compromised in our business, in our family life, in our relationship with one another. We have compromised the truths of God's word and have engored the principles of scripture thinking that God ~~do~~esn't care.....Oh, I warn you of this christian....You may be a believer in Christ. But the issue is WHERE DO WE STAND IN OUR HEARTS WITH HIM.

(2E) There is a second area in which we see the worldliness of Lot. And this is in chapter 19:8..It is in the area of his love for his family.

Often it is seen that a nation that goes bad, goes bad in its families first. The destruction of the family, *then the nation (Why - We are the Firm*

Well, here ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> an example of a christian man living in that society who had really lost his love and respect in his family. <sup>Chris</sup> Vs 4. "When the men of the city both young and old." Notice, the kids are there alos. You talk about a corrupt city. And they were all asking that ~~that~~ he would give them these <sup>Two</sup> ~~three~~ men who had come into his house so that they could commit homosexual acts with them. <sup>And Lot</sup> ~~He~~ said, Vs 7, "Listen, don't do this. I have a better plan." Vs 8, "I have two daughters who have not had relations with man; please let me bring them out to you, and do to them whatever you like; only do nothing to these men."

Can you believe that?....A christian man, a believer, who had gone so far in his compromise that he said, "Here are my two daughters. Do what you want with them."

Can you imagine giving those two precious young girls who have never known a man, out to a mob to destroy their lives and to defile them? And he called himself a believer? You talk about wordliness....Listen, Christian, if your heart is starting to draw away from Christ, you don't realize, unless you are studying the Word, what can happen to you. How far you can go. How bad you can become. How carnal and wordly and away from God you can wind up being. Simple because your heart somewhere along the ling compromise and decided to go along with the world's point of view.

Beware, God is not decieved. Whatsoever you sow that alos will you reap.....

And talk about Love for his family, and if you want to know the tragedy end of this story I would admonishe you to read Vs 30-38 at the end of chapter 19.....We will not look at it in detail. But let me remaind you of what happened.

Lot, finally, in a gave gets drunk. And his two daughters decide to commit incest with their Father in order to have children.

<sup>Now</sup> it is easy to blame those two children. Yet, the problem started with Lot. He is the one who caused this. The Bible teaches that Lot would not discipline his children from doing evil. And <sup>discipline</sup> discipline is one of the keys that God uses in his chain of command in the family to keep the children from doing evil.

And when a nation and a society decide that the family is no longer important, that discipline is no longer to be applied, then we will reap the results....<sup>Sow</sup> Sow to the wind and you reap the whirlwind says the Bible...

(And you say what a tragic end....But it is;not the end..Because God never forgets anyone. And it is amazing to me that those two daughters had two sons from their own father and they named them Moab and Ammon. And the Moabites and the Ammonites gave Israel constant problems in wars, etc.

And you say "What a tragedy"....<sup>one</sup> But, one day, when human history began to unfold, you read this in the book of Ruth, a daughter of Moab, a woman from that sinful incest of Lot with his daughters, a woman of Maab named Ruth married a man named Boaz who was in the line of the Messiah. And God never forgets anyone. Talk about tragedy....talk about sin....But listen, if you talk about sin but don't <sup>Talk</sup> about the <sup>love</sup> love of God, you don't know what you are talking about.....The love of God covers all sin. God in mercy, inspite of man's rejection, he brought a daughter of Maab, Ruth, right back into the line and married Boaz. And the whole Moabite nations becomes a participant of what God promised to Abraham, "In thee, shall all nations be blessed.".....And God never left a single nation, tribe, or people out of that blessing.....They either married or were born or were adopted into that line. Every single one of them....PRAISE THE LORD. <sup>The Time of</sup> <sub>S-G</sub>

(3E) There is a third area, however, in which you see the worldliness of Lot. Look at Vs 16 chapter 19....And that is his hesitation in the face of judgement. It says in Vs 16..."But he hesitated. So the men seized his hand and the hand of his wife and the hands of his daughters, for the <sup>Compassion</sup> ~~com~~ passion of the Lord was upon him; and they brought him out of the city."

But he hesitated.....This doesn't mean he was waiting around trying to encourage his wife and daughter to hurry up and get ready to leave... That is not what the Hebrew means....The Hebrew means "to hold back to the point of staying.".....Lot was faced in that moment with judgement coming upon the city, but talk about wordliness, his heart was so much there that he was holding back to the point of wanting to stay in that city. He did not want to leave.....<sup>yet</sup> God in his mercy seized his hand and had to pull him out of the city....

And I look at this and say, "Lot was a christian." What can happen to a believer when he decides to compromise with the world and walk independently from God. A believer who decides, "I can run my own life. I don't need God." And he keeps compromising, he keeps compromising thinking that all is well, after all, I am going to heaven.....The tragedy of a life that tries to live apart from God.....<sup>Example</sup> *No wonder there is so much misery and unhappiness in the world today*

He hesitated.....You know it is one thing to be separate from the world. It is something different to get the world out of you. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?.....The Bible says, "that all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life...that doesn't mean conceit. It means "boasting over what one possess." And it is a beautiful illustration of materialism.....

And I wonder how much our hearts has been so taken over by the world that if God would come to us right now and say, "listen, Porterville is so wiped out in sin that I am going to destroy it. And I want you to leave everything you have....your business, your job, your house, everything, and I want you to go over to the desert and stay awhile while I destroy this place." Now, a lot of you would stand up and say, "Boy, if you expect me to believe that message, you must be crazy.".....

Do you not see yourself back in this story of Sodom and Gomorrah. And the hearts of people who have built their life around the desire to have. All of a sudden in the moment of crises could not make the decision to follow Christ. Because, if we live on the bases of "to have"

That is, "to have things that will bring us happiness", <sup>we</sup> ~~you~~ can never understand what it means "to be what God wants us to be."...And those two empires are in direct conflict with each other. And if you are building an empire of having, prestige, prominence, security, things, all of this, in a moment of crisis you cannot face this issue anymore than Lot and his family did. Worldliness, you see, was on the inside of them. And he hesitated to the point that he wanted to stay there. He didn't want to go. And yet, Judgement was promised and it was coming....Tragedy story  
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But the Lord rescued Lot. And there in we see the tenderness of the Lord. The Lord was being merciful unto him. And because he was merciful the Angels laid their hands on Lot and his wife and their two daughters and pulled them from the city. What a tremendous testimony to the compassion of God. He loves us so much the he wants to rescue everyone of us.

~~So usually we see that the Lord is long-suffering and he desires that non should perish, no not one. But wanting all to come to repentence.~~ The Bible tells us that the Lord is long-suffering and he desires that non should perish, no not one. But wanting all to come to repentence.

Someone usually ask at this point: Well, if the Lord is a loving God, how could he send people to Hell? You talk about justuse. We commit one little sin and bang, God sends us to Hell.....

And I have heard this ~~su~~ much. But you know there is one little difference between the Christian and the non-christian. There is really only one major difference....The non-believers believes that all people are in ~~neutral gear. And God sends some to heaven and he sends some to hell.~~

But the christian knows that the whole human race is not in neutral gear. The Bible teaches that we all deserve judgement. And the non-believer cries out for justice.....Listen folks, I don't want justice....I want mercy. And that is the difference between the christian and the unbeliever. The Christian exalts the grace and mercy of God that he would save anyone of us. We all deserve the judgement of Sodom and Gomorrah. But God loved us so ~~much~~ that he gave his only begontten son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life..... Let us close in Prayer

Use 1/5  
Point at them  
Omit

(3D) The third thing that emphasizes to me the tragedy of Sodom and Gomorrah is Lot's Wife.

Chapter 19:17 says.. "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the valley."

Do not look behind you. Don't take one look at what you have left. Vs 26...says, "but his wife, from behind him, looked back; and she became a pillar of salt."

You say, "How cruel. How unfair. Why would God do that to that woman for simply looking back?"

Well, the Bible tells you why....Did you know that....Turn, please, Luke 17. The Gospel of Luke chapter 17.....One little act of disobedience. Her heart was still in Sodom. And as they are walking away, God says, "Don't look back." And yet, she turned back. And God judged her in that moment. Luke 17 tells us why God did that.....And I don't blame anyone else but God. A lot of people don't like to blame God. I like to blame God because He said he caused all things. Blame him in the sense of revenge...NO.... Blame him in the sense of absolute confidence that he is doing everything according to will....He judged Sodom and Gorrromoh because he want to. And a lot of people don't like to hear that message. But it is true. And God judged Lot's wife. WHY?.....Because he desires to punish people?...No... But he gave Sodom and Gomorrah, as Jude tells us, as an everylasting example to all people of what they deserve if they continue in their way of sin.

He took the example of Lot's wife and applied it jto the end time. Look at Luke 17:28.....After just telling us that the second coming would be like the days of Noah, he says in Vs 28, "It was the same as happened in the days of Noe"; (Read Vs 28- 37)

You say, "what is this talking about?" Well, it is talking about the tribulation period that is soon to come on the world. And it is talking about when Christ comes in power and great glory at the end of that tribulations period. He is admonishing those who will ~~live~~ live at that time.

Remember that when the judgement comes don't take the time even to go after your personal belongings or anything else. There will be world wide judgement and remember Lot's wife.

But, I want you to also know that this has application to us, now. Because just 7 years before this the Bible says that Christ will come for his church in that event called the Rapture. And those who have accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour are going to be caught up to meet him in the air. And we are going to be in heaven during the tribulation period. And then we are going to come back with Christ at the end of the tribulation. So, if Christ would come now in the clouds, the application is just as real as it will be 7 years hence.....REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE.

A lot of people, today, think we have all the time in the world. And a lot of people are practical atheist. They don't want to say that they don't believe in God because they need him every time they get in a jam; but they are practical atheist. They live as though God doesn't exist. They ignore him, they forget about him, they believe they can operate fully without him. And the whole world has taught us that ... "look at what man has done. And everybody is divided into two groups.

One..who bases everything; upon human good. And one who bases everything upon God's plan. Remember Lot's wife.....She looked back...her heart was there in Sodom..all of her possessions, the pleasure seeking, the entertainment, all the sin the corruption that they had defiled themselves with and her heart was there. And God said .."Remember Lot's wife".. Remember what I did to her...

(4D) The Fourth tragedy that I see the case of Sodom and Gomorrah is the weakness of Lot himself.

(E) Come back to Genesis 19:14...Here we learn that he was weak in his testimony. Weak in his testimony. Chapter 19:14 says (Read)

Lot, you see, had already compromised to the point that he lost his testimony. He couldn't even win his own two sons-in-law. He couldn't even convince them that God was going to destroy the city.

He lost all power, all effectiveness, He was thought to be jesting.

You know one of the things that hits like a dart into your heart when you are witnessing to a non-christian is that they usually bring up this point: "Well, I know so and so, and if they are a christian I don't want anything to do with them.".....And then I try to get them back on the issue of their relationship to Christ. But all the time I am doing this it never stops hurting. Because I know that that is a criticism of Christians because we have compromise, because we are so weak, ineffective, the world had a valid criticism of us. And they are not attracted to Christ because they know who we really live. No matter how much we say to them, no matter how much we testify, no matter how much we want to give them the Word of the Lord, yet, we are weak and ineffective and we have lost our testimony.

(2E) The second thing I see in the weakness of Lot is in his trust in the Lord. It just went out the window. How do I know this. Vs 17...

/Ø/ (Read Vs 17-20)

Now, what kind of confidence is that in the Lord? God pulls him out of the city that he is going to destroy; and this man, even though he sees that, cannot believe ~~cannot believe~~ that God will keep him safe up in the mountains.....Is he any different from us?.....He lacks trust and confidence in God. He has fears and anxieties in his life, now, to the point that even though he is a believer he has lost his trust. He had compromised to the point that there was not fears and anxieties in his life. And he could no longer put ever bit of confidence in God and say, "I am not going to fear." My trust is in the Lord." He was weak....

(2C) The second thing I want you to notice in this story of Sodom and Gomorrah is the trust of Abraham. And look at this by way of contrast. In the midst of this tragedy story we have woven into it the beauty of one man's life. Now, Abraham in many areas was just as weak as Lot. He made a lot of mistakes. But, the Bible calls him the Friend of God. And there were some secrets that I want you to see.

(1D) First, the trust of Abraham can be seen in his realization of Opportunity.

And this may surprise you. Chapter 18:1-5 tells us about those three men who come to his tent. Now, Abraham didn't set ~~her~~ and say, "Well, I do appreciate you guys coming, but I have a lot to do, and could you come back some other time.", NO....Abraham realized opportunity....

Over in Hebrews chapter 13:2 it tells us not to forget to entertain strangers because by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

It refers back to Abraham. And admonishes us to be hospitable. The only thing that I point out to you, here, is that Abraham was so much in trust and dependence upon God that every little thing that happened to him he saw it as an opportunity. Come into my home. Stay here. I will do any thing I can for you..

And God admonishes us on the bases of his life to not forget those little things. They really count. He realized his opportunity. And what an opportunity. He was able to talk and meet with God. For the Son of God was one of those three men. And he is called "Lord" in this chapter. There weren't three angels. There were two angels. Three who appeared as men. But, one of them was Jesus, himself.

(2D) Number two, I would like you notice that Abraham had tremendous trust in God because of his response to the Lord. The way he responded to the Lord And he responded in a number of ways.

(1E) Number one, obedience characterized his response to the Lord.

Vs 19 of chapter 18 says, )(Read)

What a exciting thing to say about a person. I know him. He is going to teach his family and he is going to do what I say. He was obedient in his response to the Lord.

(2E) Secondly, he was humble. ...Vs 27(Read) .....Most of us when we come to the Lord come as bulls in a chine closet....And we rush in demanding That God do something now for us. Oh, that is not the attitude of one who trust the Lord. He said, "batt I am dust and ashes and I don't even deserve to talk to you.....I don't even deserve to say a word to you....He was so thankful for the opportunity.....humility.....How do you come to God/

What is the key to your trust in your life in the midst of this generation that we live in? What kind of response do you have towards the Lord?

(3E) And there was a third thing. And that was his dependence on God.

He always knew where to go. Vs 22(Read)

I like that...And you find again in chapter 19 that he does the same thing. Abraham knew where to go. He depended upon God. He knew right away the seriousness of that situation. He said there is only one place to go. And that is <sup>to</sup> the Lord.....

(3D) Then I also see the trust of Abraham in his request to the Lord that he makes in these last few verses. What a beautiful prayer. It indicates that his belief was that God would spare Lot. Now, he never mentioned Lot. As a matter of fact the last request that Abraham gave was: if there are 10 righteous men in that city would you spare it?...YES....

Now, man deserved God's punishment. God should have destroyed the whole city. But he said that if there were 10 righteous, he would spare the city. You see, Abraham believed that God would spare Lot. And his whole prayer to God, at this time, was centered in the mercy and compassion of God. God, if there are 10 righteous, willn't you spare the city?...Yes, Abraham if there are 10 righteous I will spare the city. What an attitude... what a trust... *Oh, The Trade of S and G*

(3C) The Final thing I want you to see is the tenderness of the Lord.

Oh, if you miss this in the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, you have missed everything. If you don't see this, you have missed it. And I see the tenderness of the Lord expressed in three ways.

(1D) I see his tenderness in refusing to destroy the city for the benefit of a few righteous. Now, he did destroy it because there weren't 10 righteous. But, he was willing to whole back his judgement from a wicked city who deserved his wrath for the few rightows.

And I thought, "Oh the power of a few. If we could only see this. Jesus said, "we christians are the salt of the earth...a bulwark against evil.

We have a tremendous influence. But if we are weak like Lot ~~and~~ we <sup>will</sup> ~~lose~~ <sup>lose</sup> our testimony, we ~~have lost~~ <sup>and</sup> our effectiveness. God would not have destroyed that city if there had been 10 righteous...What a tender, loving God we have.

That city deserved to be destroyed. But he said, "I will not destroy ~~it~~, if there are 10 people who are found to be righteous.

(2D) The second thing I see about the tenderness of God is in remembering Abraham. Look at Chapter 19:29..You know why God spared ~~them~~ <sup>that is</sup> Lot and his wife? You know the real reason? The Bible tells you, Vs 29(read)

You know what really blessed me? Wouldn't you like to be like Abraham that God would do something and just remember you and he wouldn't forget you? And he would do something because of it? He spared Lot because he remembered a man who had faith and trust and dependence on God.

(3D) Then, finally, I see the tenderness of the Lord in rescuing Lot. For the Bible tells us in Vs 16 (as we mentioned earlier) while he hesitated the angels laid their hands on him and pulled him from the city. The Lord was being merciful into him. Compassionate, full of pity, merciful..... Because of the Lord's mercy, he rescues Lot. What a tremendous testimony to the compassion of the Lord. He loves so much, <sup>but</sup> he wants to rescue everyone of us. The Bible tells us that the Lord is long-suffering and he desires that none should perish, no not one. But he wants all to come to repentance.

Someone usually ask at this point: "Well, if the Lord is a loving God, how could he send people to Hell? You talk about justice. We commit one little sin and bang, God sends us to Hell."

And I have heard that so many times. But, you know there is one little difference between the Christian and the non-christian. There is really only one major difference. You know what that is?..... The one who is not a christian believes that all people are in neutral gear. And God sends some to heaven and he sends some to hell....

~~But~~ But, the Christian knows that the whole human race is not in neutral gear. The Bible teaches that we all deserve judgement. And the non-believer cries out for justice.....{Oh, listen, folks, We don't want justice.....} We want mercy.....And that is the only difference between the Christian and the unbeliever. The Christian exalts the grace and mercy of God that he would save anyone of us. We all deserve the judgement of Sodom and Gomorrah. But God loves us so much that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Let us close in Prayer

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God  
There is no one righteous, no not one  
Our righteousness is like filthy rags in the sight  
of God