

Families Are Messy **When You Live in the Culture of the World**

I. Introduction

- A. Genesis 19:1-15, 23-29 (NLT) ¹*That evening the two angels came to the entrance of the city of Sodom. Lot was sitting there, and when he saw them, he stood up to meet them. Then he welcomed them and bowed with his face to the ground.* ²*“My lords,” he said, “come to my home to wash your feet, and be my guests for the night. You may then get up early in the morning and be on your way again.”* ³*“Oh no,” they replied. “We’ll just spend the night out here in the city square.”* ⁴*But Lot insisted, so at last they went home with him. Lot prepared a feast for them, complete with fresh bread made without yeast, and they ate.* ⁵*But before they retired for the night, all the men of Sodom, young and old, came from all over the city and surrounded the house.* ⁶*They shouted to Lot, “Where are the men who came to spend the night with you? Bring them out to us so we can have sex with them!”* ⁷*So Lot stepped outside to talk to them, shutting the door behind him.* ⁸*“Please, my brothers,” he begged, “don’t do such a wicked thing.”* ⁹*Look, I have two virgin daughters. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do with them as you wish. But please, leave these men alone, for they are my guests and are under my protection.”* ¹⁰*“Stand back!” they shouted. “This fellow came to town as an outsider, and now he’s acting like our judge! We’ll treat you far worse than those other men!”* ¹¹*And they lunged toward Lot to break down the door.* ¹²*But the two angels reached out, pulled Lot into the house, and bolted the door.* ¹³*Then they blinded all the men, young and old, who were at the door of the house, so they gave up trying to get inside.* ¹⁴*Meanwhile, the angels questioned Lot. “Do you have any other relatives here in the city?” they asked. “Get them out of this place—your sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone else.”* ¹⁵*For we are about to destroy this city completely. The outcry against this place is so great it has reached the LORD, and he has sent us to destroy it.”* ¹⁶*So Lot rushed out to tell his daughters’ fiancés, “Quick, get out of the city! The LORD is about to destroy it.”* ¹⁷*But the young men thought he was only joking.* ¹⁸*At dawn the next morning the angels became insistent. “Hurry,” they said to Lot. “Take your wife and your two daughters who are here. Get out right now, or you will be swept away in the destruction of the city!”* ¹⁹*Lot reached the village just as the sun was rising over the horizon.* ²⁰*Then the LORD rained down fire and burning sulfur from the sky on Sodom and Gomorrah.* ²¹*He utterly destroyed them, along with the other cities and villages of the plain, wiping out all the people and every bit of vegetation.* ²²*But Lot’s wife looked back as she was following behind him, and she turned into a pillar of salt.* ²³*Abraham got up early that morning and hurried out to the place where he had stood in the LORD’s presence.* ²⁴*He looked out across the plain toward Sodom and Gomorrah and watched as columns of smoke rose from the cities like smoke from a furnace.* ²⁵*But God had listened to Abraham’s request and kept Lot safe, removing him from the disaster that engulfed the cities on the plain.*
- B. Genesis 13:5-7 (NLT) ⁵*Lot, who was traveling with Abram, had also become very wealthy with flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and many tents.* ⁶*But the land could not support both Abram and Lot with all their flocks and herds living so close together.* ⁷*So disputes broke out between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot.*
- C. Genesis 13:8-9 (NLT) ⁸*Finally Abram said to Lot, “Let’s not allow this conflict to come between us or our herdsmen. After all, we are close relatives!”* ⁹*The whole countryside is open to you. Take your choice of any section of the land you want, and we will separate. If you want the land to the left, then I’ll take the land on the right. If you prefer the land on the right, then I’ll go to the left.”*

- D. Genesis 13:10-11 (NLT) ¹⁰*Lot took a long look at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley in the direction of Zoar. The whole area was well watered everywhere, like the garden of the LORD or the beautiful land of Egypt. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)* ¹¹*Lot chose for himself the whole Jordan Valley to the east of them. He went there with his flocks and servants and parted company with his uncle Abram.*
- E. Genesis 13:12-14, 17 (NLT) ¹²*So Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot moved his tents to a place near Sodom and settled among the cities of the plain.* ¹³*But the people of this area were extremely wicked and constantly sinned against the LORD.* ¹⁴*After Lot had gone, the LORD said to Abram, "Look as far as you can see in every direction—north and south, east and west.* ¹⁷*Go and walk through the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you."*
- F. The way many of us end up in Sodom is because we choose Sodom!

II. What Are the Characteristics of Sodom?

- A. Sodom was characterized by sexual immorality.
 - 1. Genesis 19:4-5 (NLT) ⁴*But before they retired for the night, all the men of Sodom, young and old, came from all over the city and surrounded the house.* ⁵*They shouted to Lot, "Where are the men who came to spend the night with you? Bring them out to us so we can have sex with them!"*
 - 2. Jesus calls us to self-denial!
- B. Sodom was characterized by a rejection of moral judgment.
 - 1. Genesis 19:9 (NLT) *"This fellow came to town as an outsider, and now he's acting like our judge! We'll treat you far worse than those other men!" And they lunged toward Lot to break down the door.*
 - 2. In Sodom, any moral statement is seen as judgmental and intolerant.

III. How Do We Survive in Sodom?

- A. Don't say everything you think!
- B. Do something good for people!
- C. Go deep in your relationship with God!

IV. Conclusion