



THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of
Ashley River Baptist Church

PITCHING YOUR TENT TOWARD SODOM

Genesis 13:1-13; 19:1, 12-15, 24-26

Genesis 13:1-13

1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. 2 Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold. 3 From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier 4 and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD. 5 Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. 6 But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. 7 And quarreling arose between Abram's herdsmen and the herdsmen of Lot. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time. 8 So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and mine, for we are brothers. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left." 10 Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, toward Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) 11 So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: 12 Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. 13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.

Genesis 19:1, 12-15, 24-26

19:1 The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.

19:12 The two men said to Lot, "Do you have anyone else here-- sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, 13 because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it." 14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters. He said, "Hurry and get out of this place, because the LORD is about to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking. 15 With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished."

19:24 Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah-- from the LORD out of the heavens. 25 Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities-- and also the vegetation in the land. 26 But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

The outcome of our lives is normally determined not by any one major occurrence, but by a composite of pivotal choices we have made along the way. We must, therefore be warned of our sinful nature which deceives us and leads us to make choices which appeal more to our base lustful desires rather than choices which are beneficial and pleasing to God. From the life of Lot we see a living illustration of this principle and discern key choices he made which led to his potential ruin and which we in turn are to avoid.

I. HE CAST HIS EYES ON THAT WHICH HE SHOULD NOT.

"Lot looked up and saw... was well watered like the garden of the Lord..." (v13:10)

The first step to ruin is allowing our interests and senses to focus on that which is sinful and ruinous. The truth – Sodom was the most notoriously wicked / evil city of the plain. He learned.

II. HE PITCHED HIS TENT WHERE HE SHOULD NOT

"...Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. (V.13:12) He was near Sodom – not in it – where many of us desire to lie – the suburbs of sin. We live close enough to explore and partake of its offerings, yet far enough away to avoid accusation of being part of it. He understood the evils, yet thought he could withstand the temptation. He learned.

III. HE MOVED IN WHERE HE SHOULD NOT

"...Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city." (v.19:1)

The inevitable occurred – he moved in. Sitting in the gateway suggests he was a business leader in the city. What began as a glance evolved into a presence in the midst of evil. He arrived!

THE CONSEQUENCE

There are always others in the tent. Many lives were disrupted, ruined and even lost as a result of his sinful and selfish choices – primarily his own life. And we are left with the thought of what could have been in the life of this promising young man – had he only made the right choices. What about you? God offers a promising and fulfilling life to those who will "CHOOSE" to follow Him. Which way are you pitching your tent of life?