

Sermon Outlines

A Bible Beacon - Lot

“While he lingered . . . the Lord being merciful to him, they brought him forth.”
(Genesis 19:16)

There are lives in Scripture which have been well called “beacons”: e.g., Balaam, Saul, Solomon. These men have started out well, with every advantage and much promise, but have ended in failure and even in disaster. Such a life was Lot’s. His circumstances are well known:

- a) with Abraham in Haran and Canaan (Gen. 11:31 to 12:9)
- b) with Abraham in Egypt (Gen. 12:10-20)
- c) separated from Abraham (Gen. 13:1-14)
- d) rescued by Abraham (Gen. 14:1-16)
- e) lost days in Sodom (Gen. 19:1-16)
- f) escape from Sodom and end of story (Gen. 19:17-38).

Lot’s life is full of most solemn warning and valuable instruction for every Christian. Let us take time and opportunity for an examination of our own lives in comparison with his.

I. Lot’s Dangers

1. Things Lawful

His emphasis on good land not wrong in itself — evil was in place in which he put it. “There are more killed by meat than by poison” — more lost through abuse of things lawful than through use of things unlawful. Possession is not wrong — being possessed by possessions is. Right for ship to be in water but not water in ship.

2. Compromise

Lot first moved “toward” Sodom (13:12), but soon “dwelt in” Sodom (14:12). We are not told of his actual going — perhaps gradual and almost imperceptible — but then we read that he “sat in the gate of Sodom” — i.e., was a great man there. Perhaps he thought to bear strong testimony — no use, for words not equal in effect to deeds (19:24), and he had evidently made money with the rest and shared their life. Should we go into the world to “influence” it? Never — it needs saving! Therefore there should be separation — in the world but not of it. First step in conformity with world bears a high price.

3. Worldliness

Lot did testify and was “vexed” (2 Pet. 2:7, 8) by wickedness, but also mixed hospitality and

II. Lot’s Needs

1. Independence

All right while with Abraham, but not after. Prop removed, so he fell. Cf. ourselves minus our associations — church, business, friends. Best to cultivate dependence not only on self but on God — spiritual life at firsthand.

2. Decision

Toward Sodom — rescued from Sodom — returned to Sodom — had to be hastened away — lingered — finally wrong decision, Zoar first instead of direct to mountains. For true life there is need for decisiveness and firmness. In test, result not as wished but according to preceding conduct. Character cannot be peeled off like skin or taken off like coat.

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3. *Wholehearted Consecration*

Lot had come from Ur of the Chaldees with uncle, but had not made the same stand as to heathenism. Name means “veil.” Was he (a) apparently godly but really worldly, or (b) worldly with tinge of religion, or (c) religious with taint of worldliness? Evidently last, for he is called “just” and “righteous” by Peter (2 Pet. 2:7, 8). So greatest need was for surrender, consecration, service.

Conclusion

1. *Lot's Life a Terrible Commentary*

- a) His end haunted by terror, both of sin of Sodom and of its punishment — sounded lowest depths of shame — sand into oblivion — death unrecorded — grave unknown — influence nil.
- b) But for words in New Testament, we should call him lost — but he is of those “saved yet so as by fire” (1 Cor. 3:15).
- c) Cf. Abraham — drawn to God's will by love and delight: Lot — driven by sorrow and discontent. Not in “by faith chapter” (Hebrews 11), so no abundant entrance.

2. *Lot's Life a Terrible Commentary*

- a) Keep close to God and His people — then sensitive to evil.
- b) Witness for God to world — shining lighthouse, not halfway house.

“Resist! — Insist! — Persist!”

. . . . *W.H. Griffith Thomas, D.D.*