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**SG020110**

## **The Whole Counsel of God – Genesis 17-19**

Got questions? Email Pastor Jason at [jasonduff7@gmail.com](mailto:jasonduff7@gmail.com)

(You can download this message as a pod cast by searching Jason Duff on I-Tunes)

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### **Introduction & Overview of the Section**

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#### **Introduction**

We are working through the Life of Abraham. One of the things we notice is the contrast between the Life of Abraham, which seems blessed at every turn and the Life of Lot (Abraham's nephew) that seems blasted by sin on every occasion. Tonight we will explore the reason why this seems to be the case. Both men were saved, but one was blessed, and one was blasted by sin!

#### **A Blessed Life or a Blasted Life – Genesis 17-19**

##### **#1 – Abraham – A Blessed Life – Genesis 17-18**

Abraham was a sinner, but blessing seemed to follow him around all the days of his life. In these two chapters we get some insight as to why. Abraham was one who obeyed, who ran to worship and believed the Word of God in His life.

##### **#2 – Lot – A Blasted Life - Genesis 19**

By contrast Lot was also saved (2 Peter 2:7) but instead of blessing following him around, it seems like Lot is blasted at every corner. In Genesis 19 some questions are answered as to why Lot was blasted and not blessed.

#### **Key Issues or Words**

**“God Almighty” (17:1)** – In Hebrew it is “El Shaddai” and it signifies God’s power and His sovereignty, which by the way, is exactly what Abraham needed to hear in that moment. God always meets us right where we need Him to.

**“Abraham bowed Himself to the ground” (18:2)** – The Hebrew word “Shachah” translated elsewhere “worship” is the first mention of the word in the Bible. That sets the tone for what worship is suppose to look like in the rest of scripture.

#### **By the way...**

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**Genesis 17:10 – “every male shall be circumcised”**– A recent report in USA Today from 8/20/12 stated, “researchers say falling infant circumcision rates could end up costing billions of U.S. health care dollars when men and their female partners develop AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections and cancers that could have been prevented by circumcision.”

When we will start to believe God has our best in mind?

**Genesis 18:8 – “milk and meat”**– It is interesting to me that the meal Abraham makes for God is one the Jewish people today would consider non kosher for it mixes milk and meat, yet God eats it. This is just more evidence that when the book of Exodus commands God’s people to “not boil a calf in its mother’s milk” (Exodus 23:19) it is simply referring to a Canaanite fertility rite that God was forbidding, not Cheeseburgers. – Praise the Lord!!!!

**Genesis 18:32 – “for the sake of 10”**– 10 Jewish men is the number required by Jewish tradition to build a synagogue in any town. The reason they picked that number is Genesis 18:32. In their thinking, if there are at least 10 “righteous” men God will not destroy that city.

## **Additional Notes**

(unless you want to stay 'til 10, we won't get to this)

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**Genesis 18:16-33 – Abraham haggles with God** – We learn much about the heart of God and the heart of Abraham in this section. First of all, God lets Abraham know that he has heard the cries of Sodom and Gomorrah and He is going to down to see whether or not it is all true. Now this teaches me first of all that the Lord hears the cries of the afflicted even if the afflicted don't know Him. We wonder does the Lord see this corruption, does He see this sin? The answer is absolutely yes! But then God tells Abraham that He is going to verify. Now God didn't need to verify whether or not the sin was real, God already knew. But He was teaching Abraham and by it, you and me an important truth. We need to hear the cries of the afflicted as He does, but we also must verify a story's validity before we judge or act. We also see in this section why God is telling Abraham this information about what He intends to do with Sodom and Gomorrah in the first place. God knows Abraham is one who will instruct his descendants. (Genesis 18:19) Unlike Lot, who failed to pass on his faith, God knew that was exactly what Abraham would do, so God lets Abraham in on some inside information.

**Genesis 18:16-33 – One premise of the rapture** – Abraham makes a statement to God in this section that becomes one of the many reasons I (Pastor Jason) believe that Jesus will rapture His people before the Tribulation begins. In verse 25, Abraham says that God does not judge the righteous with the wicked. That does mean that righteous people don't go through trials or experience difficult effects of the sinful world we live in. It simply means we don't experience God's judgment. The Tribulation period is God pouring out His wrath on a Christ rejecting world. Jesus has taken God's wrath for me on the cross. God does not judge the wicked with the righteous, (Genesis 18:25) so it makes sense that God will remove His church from the earth before the judgment begins. God didn't find 10 righteous people in Sodom, but notice in chapter 19 He still removes Lot from the city before the judgments begins.

## **Going Deeper**

(think it over yourself or discuss with the family)

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### **Questions to ask the younger kids....**

Abraham was a worshipper of God. What does it mean to worship the Lord? In what ways can we worship God? Does worship go beyond just singing?

### **Questions for the rest of us...**

Why is it important to worship God because of who He is instead of how we feel or who we are? What steps do think led to Lot's downfall as a person and then as a parent? How can you avoid those same mistakes for your own life, for your kids or your future family?

### **Further study...**

#1 – Abraham was an interceder, someone who saw the importance of praying for others. Who is someone in your life that you need to be an interceder for? Write their name down and commit to pray for them for a few minutes every day this week.

## **Homework 4 Next Week – Genesis 20-21**

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Read Genesis 20-21 – Next week we are going to see Abraham and his family take a little trip down to Gerar. What can we learn about ourselves from the events in Gerar?

## Genesis 17-19

# “A Blessed Life or a Blasted Life”

### Introduction

- Tonight we are going to continue our study in the foundational book of the Old Testament and really all of the Bible
  - Remember the content is not hard to remember, because the title says it all

### The word Genesis means “beginnings”

- And truly so many things in scripture have their beginning in the book of Genesis
  - The universe
  - Life in general
  - Man, marriage
  - Sin and evil
  - Language, government, nations
  - Specifically we will see the nation of Israel
- In fact understanding that this book means and is about beginnings really is a good way to divide up our look at this book as you can see in your book intro sheet

### Outline for the Book of Genesis

#### Chapters 1-11 – The Beginning of all nations

- Chapters 1-2 – The Creation
- Chapter 3 - 5 – The Fall
- Chapter 6-9 – The Flood
- Chapters 10-11 – The Tables of Nations

#### Chapters 12-50 – The Beginning of the Jewish nation

- Chapters 12-23 – Abraham
- Chapters 24-27 – Isaac
- Chapters 28-36 – Jacob
- Chapters 37-50 – Joseph

### Tonight we continue in our story of Abraham’s life

- But instead of sailing the seven “C” of Abraham’s life, tonight we are really going to see a contrast between Abraham and Lot
  - Now both Abraham and Lot had similarities in that they both had failures and struggles
  - They were both were saved
- The Apostle Peter mentions the fact three times in his epistle after talking about judging Sodom and Gomorrah, he says God...

**“delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked, (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds).” – 2 Peter 2:7**

- Peter makes the point three times – this man is righteous, he is a believer
  - But you look at their life and you see that although both men were saved, both men had their sin nature dealt with
  - They had two very radically different lives
- And the lesson in that for us tonight is although you are saved that is not a guarantee that everything will go smooth sailing
  - And I don’t just means trials – we all have trials, but specifically trials because of lifestyle choices you make

- I have talked with believers that seem to think that as long as they are good with Jesus they can live anyway they want and they wonder when the effects of sin come home to roost what God is doing.

Ah – God will not be mocked is what He is doing – if you sow to the flesh, you will reap corruption, if you sow to the Spirit you reap life – isn't that what Paul said

**“For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” – Galatians 6:8**

- and what we have tonight is a real look at what it looks like to sow the Spirit and a real look at what it looks like to sow to the flesh
  - and the results – even though you are saved, will be either have a blessed life like Abraham, or a blasted life like Lot
- And as we go through our study and these chapters tonight I really want you to be thinking about which category you fall into and more importantly what category do you want to be in?
  - An outline tonight for those of you who like those kinds of things

### **Genesis 17-19**

**Abraham – A Blessed Life – Genesis Chapters 17-18**

**Lot – A Blasted Life – Genesis Chapter 19**

- lets look at these one at a time

### **Genesis 17-19**

**Abraham – A Blessed Life – Genesis Chapters 17-18**

- read chapter 17
  - here we begin to see what made Abraham blessed of the Lord

**4 things that set Abraham apart**

**#1 – He was obedient**

- God comes to Abram, now 99 years old and once again promises him that he will be the Father of many nations
  - God is so serious about this, He changes His name from...

**Abram – means exalted Father**

**Abraham – means Father of many nations**

- Abram would have been a tough name to have with no kids as it was

**Where are your children, exalted father – oh it's a promise**

- Now God has given me a new name – Abraham – father of many nations
  - Every time he would have heard that name
  - Good morning – Father of many nations
  - Here is your lunch – Father of many nations
  - Good night – Father of many nations
- It would have reinforced the promised, and at times I'm sure, it would have caused more trouble in the heart

**But along with Abraham's new name, God shares with Abraham a new name God is giving Himself**

**A new name for God – Almighty God**

**The name means the “all powerful, all sufficient one”**

- El Shaddi - The one who can deal with everything you are facing in your life

**And it is interesting to me when God revealed this name to Abraham it was just when he needed to hear it**

- just before God was going to utter the promise of a son again
  - now that He was 99
  - now that His wife was 90

**Abraham needed to hear that God was the all sufficient one**

### **When Abraham was worried about war**

- God revealed Himself as His shield

### **When Abraham was worried about missing out one reward**

- God revealed Himself as His reward

### **Now that Abraham was faced with the impossible promise**

- God says “I am the all powerful one, the one who could do anything”

### **The point is God is exactly what you need**

- To Moses who we will later study, when he was asked by God to go to Egypt and free the Israel people, said, who shall I say is sending me – “Tell them I am that I am”
  - I am literally means “The becoming One”
  - He is everything that we need
  - What do you need from Him tonight? Peace, Comfort, Provision? Forgiveness?  
– Whatever it is you need - that is exactly who He is

### **God gives Abraham a new name, He gives Himself a new name and then God gives Abraham the sign of the covenant**

- God seems to love to attach signs to His covenants
  - With Noah he gave him a rainbow
  - And oh I bet once Abraham heard, he was wishing for the rainbow
- But instead God is going to give Abraham the sign of circumcision
  - Now it is not my intend tonight to do a study on the medical procedure of circumcision
  - I did include in our study guide some interesting articles of late on the medical benefits – God is so wise
- Nor do I feel tonight is the study to talk about the spiritual significance of circumcision which is of course the cutting away of the flesh
  - That is what is important in our lives, not a medical procedure, but that we allow God’s Spirit to cut away the flesh from our hearts

### **But my emphasis tonight is on the obedience of Abraham – this was a tough call from God – can you image??? – Do you really want to?**

- Me either – but we need to think it through
  - Because Abraham obeys – He obeys something that wouldn’t have been easy, much easier for him to say okay Lord I believe, send me a son whenever – the sign of circumcision? Oh God you are breaking up – can’t hear you
  - But Abraham doesn’t do any of that – Abraham obeys!
  - And consider this obedience

### **The obedience of Abraham**

#### **#1 - Professional Obedience**

- He took those in his care and said we are going to do this to honor the Lord
  - Now this just goes to show you what kind of influence Abraham must have had, how much his men looked up to Him – I mean it is one thing to go to battle with a guy, it is quite another to... – I mean if you boss came in guys and said this is what we are going to do today – you would probably say – no – that is the exactly what you are not going to do today
- But the idea is Abraham insisted those with him walked in purity
  - And I don’t know how that applies to you that own business, have employees, we live in America, there is freedom of religion, but we can insist on uprightness in those we work with

#### **#2 - Parental Obedience**

- Notice – Abraham did not tell Ishmael, He took Ishmael – Ishmael was 13, eight grade, can you image – the pushback from that wild young man

- Abraham took him

### **This tells me we need to lead in our families**

- And it tells me we need to get involved
  - You know we just don't tell your kids to pray, take them to pray
  - Don't tell your kids to do devotions, take them to devotions
- Ah Jason, but that means I have pray, I have to read my bible
  - Why I never thought of that - Yes it does
  - Take your families, take you kids – this is what we are going to do, this is what I am going to do with you, which leads me to the third aspect of Abraham's obedience

### **#3 - Personal Obedience**

#### **He did not make excuses, "I'm old" – He obeyed personally – so important**

- He could have offered every excuse in the book
  - He could have said well this is so good for the next generation
  - But He obeyed the Lord – even when it was tough, even when it wasn't fun
  - And I believe this is why his men were willing to follow him, why his junior high son was willing to follow him
  - And reason number one – Abraham, was blessed – He obey

#### **Church – has God given you something to do?**

- we can offer every excuse there is
  - you know last week's prayer and fasting – I am so proud of this church
- but that said – I heard a lot of people saying, I can't fast – it is just too hard – well of course it is – how do you think you learn to say no to your flesh if it was easy – sitting on a beach, sipping a soda is going to teach you to say no to temptation???

#### **Obedience is tough, sure it is, and of course there is forgiveness when we fall**

- but what does the Word of God say?

#### **"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." – I Samuel 15:22**

- We make these promises of everything we are going to do for God, all we are going to accomplish
  - But have we simply obeyed the small things?
  - Abraham was blessed, Abraham was a man of obedience
- Next lets consider some other things from chapter 18

#### **4 things that set Abraham apart**

##### **#1 – He was obedient**

##### **#2 - He was a worshipper**

- Almost a year ago we were taking a day to hang out with a Bible college friend of mine who has done really well for himself in life and he had rented out a beach house up in San Clemente and our kids were playing on the beach, but it has lots of rocks and my son starts putting something together, and I said what are you doing son and he said – I am building an alter like Abraham did
  - and my heart as a Dad swelled with pride
  - especially because his girls were painting rocks and then selling rocks to passers by, which gave me the ability to say – your kids are using God's creation for commerce, mine is building an alter to worship God – do you need to read my book?
- Of course what I didn't tell him was when Sherri Youngward came to the church in Paris, after I was done greeting people I notice my son has set up a table next to her merchandize table selling fans

## **I like when he is building alters much better because Worship is a huge part of what we do**

- when you think about it we dedicate time to worship almost as much as we give time to the study of the word of God
  - worship is a huge part of our Christianity

## **And it is important to study the subject of worship here in Genesis 18 – Why???**

- in verse 2 it says the Abraham ‘bowed himself down’
  - That phrase “bowed himself” is one word in Hebrew

## **It is the word Shachah** – (Shaw-ka) – (in study guide)

- Now – not Shaw Ka, as in Shaw Ka Zulu
  - Shawka as in ‘hang loose’
- No – Shachah in Hebrew means to worship
  - And more importantly for our study here tonight is Genesis 18 is the first time this word is ever mentioned – why is that important?

## **The reason it is important is there is something you learn as you go further in your schooling of the Bible and that is called the “law of first mention”**

- It basically states that when ever a word or phrase is first mentioned in the Bible, it has some significance to what it means, and how it needs to be viewed for the rest of the scripture

## **A great example of that is the first mention of love, we’ll get to in a couple of weeks**

- It was first mentioned in Genesis 22, where God tells Abraham, “**take your son, your only son Isaac whom you love...**”
  - The first mention of love in the Bible is in the context of a father loving his Son
  - So when we look at God’s love, we see it in this context all thorough the Bible – prime example

## **Well – as with love in Genesis 22, this is the first mention of worship in the Bible**

- and because of that there is much we can model and lean from looking at this great example
  - if you are taking notes – I want you to notice 4 things about this act of worship

## **Abraham’s Worship**

### **#1 – Was in response to who the Lord is**

- In verse one we are told that Abraham had 3 visitors that day
  - And we are told that one of them was the Lord
  - Abraham falls down and worships the Lord
- But what I want us to notice is that his worship was for no other reason than because of who God was
  - God still hadn’t provided the promised son
  - He was not yet the Father of many nations
  - He didn’t own anything in the promise land that God had given him
  - This was not results orientated worship

## **This is an important lesson to learn**

- because there are many ideas out there of what worship is
  - I worship God because He gave my that relationship or that job – well what do you do when you get fired
  - I worship God because I feel like worshipping; I like the music – well what happens when you don’t?

## **I have always been challenged by what David, a man after God’s own heart said about worship.**

### **“I will praise the Lord according to His righteousness” – Psalm 7:17**

- not because of how I feel, not because of what He gives me, not because I am righteous, but because He is, because He is worthy

## **You see Worship in its first context is recognizing that there is a living God in our midst and He is worthy of my praise**

- My worship is not a response to the music, or to feelings or to gifts, it is a my response to the Living God who is worthy to be praised just because He is
  - next notice...

### **Abraham's Worship**

#### **#1 – Was in response to who the Lord is**

#### **#2 – Was seen as a privilege, he ran to worship**

- Abraham's worship was not self centered
  - It was in response to the Lord
- But I also want us to notice, that he ran to the opportunity to worship the Lord

### **And this is even more radical when you read carefully in verse 2 when this all occurs**

- It was the middle of the day, when it was super hot outside

### **And if you know anything about the culture at this time, no one did anything during that part of the day**

- It was nappy time
  - So understand, not only did Abraham run to worship the Lord, he did it during nap time

### **I mention this because I know at least how I am**

- **When I was single and before I had kids I took many naps. And when a friend would come by and it was nap time, I really didn't want to see him. I don't care who it is, I don't care how long it has been since we hung out – It is nappy time**
  - But Abraham at 99 no less, prime nappy age, gets up and runs at the opportunity to worship the Lord

### **I am challenged by this**

- because I see my own heart to sometimes say, oh, its only worship, I don't need to be there for that, I don't need to be in until that time
  - And that would be true if worship was only a time to share songs, a time for someone to show how great they play guitar – that would be fine

### **But as we have looked at already tonight**

- that is not what worship is
  - It is a time to express to the Lord how good He is, because He is
  - And I need to see the great need to run to those opportunities
    - To seize those opportunities before me

### **Abraham's Worship**

#### **#1 – Was in response to who the Lord is**

#### **#2 – Was seen as a privilege, (he ran to worship)**

#### **#3 – Involved waiting upon the Lord**

- Notice Abraham worships the Lord, yes by bowing down, but also by getting up to serve
  - I am going to make you a meal God – by the way I encourage you to pay attention to the study guide to notice something about the meal Abraham prepared for God and God ate
- But Abraham I am going to bless you Lord
  - Abraham is one of the most creative worshippers in the world – later he will plant God a tree as worship to Him – that is creative worship
- And I draw your attention to this because sometimes we think when the scriptures talk about waiting upon the Lord, especially in the context of worship, we think in our minds sitting on a coach, well Lord when you are going to show up



## **We think of like when my girls are taking forever and I have to yell up the stairs, come on girls, its not the prom, we are going to get burgers**

- we think that is waiting upon the Lord – here I am God, hoping you show up sometime
  - but that is not the definition of waiting up the Lord at all
- When you think of waiting, I want you to think of a waiter at a fine dining restaurant
  - Not Denny's, nothing wrong with Denny's, I like Denny's, I'm just not willing to pay \$100 for my wife and I to dine at Denny's
  - For that kind of money, once in a while, on an anniversary, we go to a fine restaurant – and I love it, food is just like you like it, you don't feel bad if something needs to be corrected, they want you to tell them – my ice tea never hits the bottom of the glass – that is being waited upon – what can we get you, how can we bless you
- And that is how Abraham saw worship
  - Lord how can I bless you?
  - What can I do to be a blessings

### **Abraham's Worship**

**#1 – Was in response to who the Lord is**

**#2 – Was seen as a privilege, (he ran to worship)**

**#3 – Involved waiting upon the Lord**

**#4 – Was with all he was**

- It says that Abraham bowed himself down

### **Now that word entails prostrating himself, laying down completely out on the ground**

- And I want you to think about this for a moment
  - This guy is 99 years old
  - This would be full commitment at 99

**When you are 99 getting down on the ground isn't as easy as it was at High school football practice – you know the drill where you follow the football, that looks cool – I've seen my grandpa try to get down, it is a process**

- Forget 99 – at 34, I pinched that nerve in my back and my leg was numb was two months, God is really walking me through it, but for those months, yeah I would look at a pencil on the ground and think, do I really need it that bad
  - Getting old is serious
- But with Abraham, just laying all out at 99, it shows me, he is into this, he is serious about worshipping the Lord
  - And he doesn't care about anything else
  - These descriptions of worship, this first mention of worship should really set the tone of our understanding of what God is looking for
- That we understand why we worship – who He is
- That we understand the privilege and make it a priority in our lives
- That we understand the idea of waiting up on the Lord – not sitting by, but God what do you want
- That we are all in – committed to worship
  - The result??
  - Well Abraham was blessed – he wasn't perfect – but His life was blessed – why???

### **4 things that set Abraham apart**

**#1 – He was obedient**

**#2 - He was a worshipper**

### #3 - He was a believer in God's Word

- back in chapter 17 Abraham laughed when God told him he was going to have a son
  - but Abraham laugh was different than Sarah's laugh in this chapter

### Abraham laughed just blessed at the goodness of God – really Lord you are so good

- Now he didn't have any indication that God was going to keep His Word
  - He just believed and again I think this set Him apart
- Contrast with Sarah who laughed
  - Hers was a laugh of unbelief
  - When you really break it down she is basically saying – oh stupid God – He doesn't really understand the real world, He doesn't understand I am 90, menopause has been and gone – I am not having a baby – what a stupid God
- That may sound to harsh to you – but that is exactly what she is saying
  - Oh not out loud, no way – but in her heart and does that matter, apparently so
  - Because the Lord rebukes her – [verses 13-15](#)

### God sees her heart and it is not okay that she thinks, even in her heart that God doesn't really understand, that God doesn't really know what He is talking about

- because of course He does, He is God
  - but before we get too hard on Sarah, I really think all of us need to look in the mirror on this one
- because I think all of us can say the same thing to God about issues of His word
  - some of us have passages of scripture that we if we are honest with ourselves we just don't think God has it all together, He doesn't understand the times

Ephesians 5 – respect your husbands – oh Stupid God, he doesn't know my husband – He would never if He did

### Let all bitterness/evil speaking be put away – Eph 4:31 This is God's will you abstain from sexual immorality – I Thess 4:3

- Greek word pornei – abstain from pornia in your life, in every form
  - oh well God doesn't understand the pressures of my life and the difficulty in my marriage, it's just escape
  - stupid God – He doesn't understand me

### Single people – don't have sex before marriage - Keep yourself pure I Timothy 5:22

- so archaic, not our culture – stupid God doesn't He understand we have to see if we are combatable, I don't want to divorce someday
  - you see we can be just like Sarah

### The reality is, either He is God or He is not

- Either His Word is truth and therefore must be obeyed or it is not
  - How long will we falter between two opinions
  - Or we love those parts of the Bible where God loves me, saves me and is taking me to heaven one day
- But precious ones, if that part of God's word is true, and it is
  - So are the parts where He dares to tell you the truth about what you are right now and how you must live
- We can say – stupid God He doesn't understand
  - OH - But He does
  - And I know this is not popular today to say things like Wives submit to your husbands, Husbands love you wives and run from pornography
  - Single people – get married, stop having sex and justify it before the Lord, its sin

### Careful pastor I tithe and I will leave

- I love this church, but I fear God more than you

### And Pastor Rob and I will continue to tell you the truth whether you like it or not

- and you have a choice of whether like Abraham you say – Lord I have heard your Word
  - I don't see how that is going to work out
  - I don't see how that happen
  - But Lord you are God and I am not – so I will obey your Word

**Oh will you be like Sarah – how laughs – stupid God, you really don't understand**

- be careful precious ones
  - blessed or blasted
  - so often our choices put us in one of the those two places

**4 things that set Abraham apart**

**#1 – He was obedient**

**#2 – He was a worshipper**

**#3 – He was a believer in God's Promises**

**#4 – He was an interceder**

- We won't get into it, but here again we see Abraham's heart beating with the heart of God
  - He hears people are going to be judged and He is asking God to be merciful
  - We covered some aspects of this in the study guide and I will leave you to read that on your own
- Before we go, we need to see the contrast
  - Lot – Peter says he was righteous, meaning he was saved, you will see him in heaven one day
- But his life as opposed to Abraham's was not blessed, he always seem blasted by the effects of sin

**Sometimes we trick ourselves into thinking I have nothing to do with that – I have just been dealt a tuff hand, well that might be true, but do you see yourself in Lot's story – lets read chapter 19**

**Genesis 17-19**

**Abraham – A Blessed Life – Genesis Chapters 17-18**

**Lot – A Blasted Life – Genesis Chapter 19**

- Yuck – But notice the difference right away, opening verse – he is missing the presence of God, there are two angels that come to Lot, but with Abraham it was God and two angels - where did God go?
  - Why did He go?

**Now listen I don't think it is God is not working with Lot**

- It is not He is not there – I will never leave you or forsake you

**But the word of God tells us that God's arm is not short that He can not reach, His ears are not deaf that He can not hear, but it is our sin that separates us from God "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear." – Isaiah 59:1-2**

- The removal of God's presence could mean one of two things
  - God could be teaching you to walk by faith and not by sight
  - Check your heart that might be so
- But it also can mean that there is sin, and God will not condone it in your life.
  - Lot was missing the presence of the Lord and because of that he gets blasted over and over again – but why – we need to now
  - 3 things to note

**Why did Lots' life seem to be blasted?**

**#1 - He had become desensitized to sin**

## **He starts by pitching his tent in the direction of Sodom back in Genesis chapter 13**

- Now we see he is living within the gate
  - which speaks of leadership
  - He is more and more involved in this town that is so wicked
  - I mean every man comes to Lot's house, young and old isn't that what verse 4 says
- How do you get to a point where this is okay? How do you get to a point where you are offering your daughters to a group of homosexual rapists? How?
  - The answer – listen – one step at a time
  - But this is always what sin does – it gets worse and we get used to it

## **Notice Psalm One**

**“Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;” – Psalm 1:1**

- You see the progression
  - Starts with walking by, then standing with, then sitting down among
  - And the progression is slow
- Like a frog in water that is warmed – that old illustration
  - But this will happen in your life
  - We start to make little compromises and the enemy gets a foot hold – God tries to convict, but we like Sarah say, Stupid God, its not a big deal, its not really bad – but mark my words, before long God's voice gets weaker and weaker and then you wonder – where did He go
- He didn't go anywhere – you have become desensitized to sin
  - And you are being blasted and some of you don't even realize it yet – but it goes on for Lot

## **Why did Lots' life seem to be blasted?**

**#1 - He had become desensitized to sin**

**#2 - He is not quick to obey**

- He doesn't trust the Lord that He needs to get out quick
  - He doesn't trust the Lord to take care of him in the mountains
  - He doesn't trust the Lord

## **You see when the Lord start to convict us of sin, we have a choice**

- to be quick to repent and obey like Abraham
  - or to offer excuses
  - to make compromises, well I will do but not that
  - and then we wonder why everything seems blasted around us
- Its not the tough hand you were dealt
  - It's not your parents fault or your pastors' fault
  - It's your fault – you are acting like Lot
  - Saved, totally saved, slow to obey

## **Why did Lots' life seem to be blasted?**

**#1 - He had become desensitized to sin**

**#2 - He is not quick to obey**

**#3 – He failed to pass on His faith to His family**

- Again the effects of sin will not be just yours
  - They will effect your family
  - It is way each of us have a God given responsibility, it doesn't mean they will always listen
  - But we have a responsibility to pass on our faith to our kids and our family
- We see the effects in Lot's wife

- Most Bible scholars believe she was from Sodom, no indication he was married before he moved there – probably just a sensual wicked women that pleased Lots' flesh

**And although Lot no doubt ignored the promptings from God when he choose her as a bride, he doubly failed because he did nothing to influence this bride to walk with God away from the way she was brought up**

- as she looks back longingly, she is turned into a pillar of salt
  - how did that happen, was it like a B-movie – I'm melting, I'm salting
- When you consider the New Testament - Luke 17:31,32, apparently she turned back, she longed for her stuff
  - Maybe she went back home, as judgment began to rain down
  - Some Bible scholars believe God used the rift valley
  - The Rift valley that starts up in Turkey north of Israel and extends all the way down into southern Africa it runs right through the Dead sea Area where these town would have been – great volcanic activity and God may have used an eruption to rain down His Wrath, or He could have just send rained it down Himself without the help of the rift
  - But maybe she got caught as the ground began to break up, then covered with ash and sulfur raining down from above
- But Lot lost his wife, because he failed to pass on his faith to her

**We see the same effects in Lot's daughters, not trusting the Lord but taking matters into their own hands**

- And two rebellious nations are the result – Moab, Ammon – as Moses writes they are dealing with this
  - All because Lot did not pass on his faith

**Lot had the same opportunities as Abraham**

- Lot is saved
  - But Abraham's Life was blessed
  - Lot's life was blasted

**You have a choice –**

**“According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.” – I Corinthians 3:10-15**

- saved as though by fire?
  - Saved but blasted by sin and the world
- Or like Abraham – a sinner
  - But blessed