

Don't drag your feet

Gen 19 - whole chapter.

Fire drill - evacuate!

Recent evacuation at work - I forgot the ticket!

The Bible describes Lot as a righteous man - **2Pet 2:7-8**.

He was distressed by what went on in Sodom.

But - we read in v16 that when the angels came to rescue him, Lot lingered, hesitated & delayed. So much so that the angels grabbed Lot, his wife & daughters and dragged them out the house.

You'd have thought they'd have run out!

Instead, he dragged his feet when it came to fleeing from destruction and pursuing the angels.

In the same way, as Christians we can be slow when it comes to the things of God.

Instead of forsaking sin like the plague we drag our feet when it comes to following God.

So, what I want to do is to look at possible reasons for Lot's slowness and apply them to us here today.

Got nearer to Sodom

Frog in boiling water.

Chose - Gen 13:10-11

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.

Went by eyes instead of following the vision from God. Following his own desires.

Pitched his tent - Gen 13:12-13

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.

See the progression? From choosing the Plain of Jordan --> Near Sodom

Living in Sodom - Gen 14:12

They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom.

Sat at the gate. Gen 19:1

The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city.

Gateway - place where people hung out - fellowship

Also place of justice, authority - see 2 Sam 19:8; Jer 26:10; 38:7; 39:3.

Pro 6:27-28

27 Can a man scoop fire into his lap
without his clothes being burned?

28 Can a man walk on hot coals

without his feet being scorched?

Heart lay with Sodom

So we see from originally following Abraham's vision & call, Lot is now dallying with sin & getting wrapped up in things.

Kill sin - or?

Sodom's sin?

What was the sin of Sodom? Why did God destroy those cities?

Ezekiel 16:49-50 “Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. 50 They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen.” Pride, gluttony, laziness, unconcern for the poor, injustice, sexual perversion. It wasn't just the perversion that did it, there were a number of things all piling up together against them.

That was the situation Lot was getting embroiled in.

Unrenewed mind

In those days hospitality to a guest was of paramount importance. But Lot was mixed up in his thinking -

Gen 19:4-8

Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom –both young and old–surrounded the house. 5 They called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us so that we can have sex with them.”

6 Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him 7 and said, “No, my friends. Don’t do this wicked thing. 8 Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don’t do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof.”

Offered his daughters! Where did that come from?

1Co 15:33 Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”

Don't be what?

Before we became Christians, we spent so many years being shaped in our thinking by the world - opinions, media, music, adverts, etc.

Col 1:21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

Eph 4:22-23 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds;

Rom 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Metamorphosis!

Zoar

So, the whole area is doomed for destruction. Whilst fleeing tho, what does Lot ask?

Gen 19:17-20 And as they brought them out, one said, "Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away." 18 And Lot said to them, "Oh, no, my lords. 19 Behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me and I die. 20 Behold, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one? —and my life will be saved!"

Only a little one! Called it Zoar = little one.

Not as bad as what others are doing. I don't do this or that - God won't mind, it's only a little sin.

But it was still doomed to destruction.

SS 2:15

Catch the foxes for us,

the little foxes

that spoil the vineyards,

for our vineyards are in blossom.

A sick verse:?

Ps 137:8-9

O Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction,

happy is he who repays you

for what you have done to us—

9 he who seizes your infants

and dashes them against the rocks.

Why? Infant enemies grow to be big enemies!

Lot's daughters

Story in Gen 19:30-38 - [retell](#).

Sick!

Yet - Consequence of father's lifestyle.

Can get people out of Sodom but it's hard to get Sodom out of people.

Teach, train, pray for & discipline your children!

Flee & pursue!

So, that's Lot. He dragged his feet - but we too are called to flee for our lives & pursue God -

1Ti 6:11-12

But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Flee!

What things?

See previous verses - greed, envy & strife. Remember the sin of Sodom?

Flee! Run away, shun, escape! Get out!

Pursue & fight!

Pursue! Chase after, follow after, to earnestly endeavour to acquire.

Does this describe your life and the way you are with sin & the things of God?

When the preacher says that God wants you to be holy, or to serve or be humble - do you set your heart on hot pursuit?

Not automatic!

Paul said to fight, to take hold of the eternal life you were called to.

The angels had to seize hold of Lot and his family and drag them out of Sodom.

God wants us to be people who gladly leave our sins & seize hold of all He has for us.

What will you do?

