

#22 SELFISH DESIRES

Lot chose what he saw as a paradise, and so it was, but there was danger nearby, there was great wickedness practiced by the people that he and his children would come in contact with.

First Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain, that was bad enough, but next we read that he pitched his tent toward Sodom, the centre for sin.

Parents have a responsibility before God to protect their children from the creeping influence of wickedness.

The forces of evil seldom make large changes to their programs, but little by little get us used to alterations of dress, language, films, advertising etc.

A DIVINE VISITOR

In v14-15 we see Abraham visited by God again with great promises,

Gen 13:14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

Gen 13:15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.

Abraham isn't the only one to receive gracious promises, we have them also in the New Testament, our responsibility is to believe and obey. There were conditions to Abraham's promises also as we read in,

Gen 13:17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee.

It is only reasonable that when God visits us with unearned blessings, or gracious promises, that we should approach him with thankful praise. See what Abraham did in,

AN ALTAR OF ADORATION

Gen 13:18 Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.

Have you ever shown your thankfulness to the Lord, for health, strength, mental ability etc. for you and your family.

Even adversity should send you to the Lord for help to overcome, for strong faith comes only by overcoming the challenges in life. We can close this section by looking at perhaps the greatest earthly promise a man can receive and this is in,

Gen 13:16 And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.

Psa 127:3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Remember Abraham and Sarah have no children and we are told in Genesis 17.17 that Abraham is 100 years old and Sarah is 90, and past the age of having children, doesn't it seem an impossible situation, Abraham's God is a God who can and does overcome impossibilities.

LOT THE LOOSER

As we turn our attention back to Lot we can see that God hides nothing from us, he tells us of the good and the less beautiful side of men even the best of them.

Here we have the actions of Lot after he saw and desired the best of the land. From the best of agriculture, he moved into the worst of cities, and God observed his move as he also saw the men of Sodom, that they were wicked sinners before the Lord exceedingly. but even though the Lord is patient and slow to anger, yet his mercy will not continue for ever.

PATIENCE IS NOT PARDON

Even though the Lord is patient and slow to anger, yet his mercy will not continue for ever.

Remember how God waited for 100 years before he brought the flood upon the whole world to destroy it except for Noah and his family.

Because God doesn't immediately punish sin, people are inclined to think they have got away with it, but as God has stated, he will punish all sin, the great and the small, no one will escape, and he is no respecter of persons, all will be dealt with.

ANGELS OF MERCY

One evening 2 Angels appeared to Lot as he sat in the gate of Sodom, this means he was there to give judgement to those who had a dispute.

Gen 19:9 And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge.

Lot invited them into his home for the night, now I would like you to get your Bible and read the sickening record that God has given us in Genesis 19.4-7. the word know in verse 5 means to know intimately as a husband and wife do.

The word sodomy is still used in our language today because the sin is still practiced in our communities.

ESCAPE FOR YOUR LIFE

The night has passed, the rising of the sun has brought what seems at first like any other day, but look at,

Gen 19:15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.