

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

www.twojourneys.org

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at twojourneys.org

Lessons from the Cave: Sin Conceived and Conquered

Genesis 19:30-38

I. Why Preach Difficult and Unpleasant Texts

1. General methodology: verse by verse exposition
2. To avoid a text is obvious... why would we avoid this one?
3. Why tempted to avoid it?

Unsavory topic

Repulsive display of human nature... an ugly picture of a low point in history

People like “pleasant things”... everyone enjoys an upbeat story, a pleasant illustration, a proverb or moral to live by...

Sometimes the truth hits too close to home

4. Why we must NOT avoid it

God’s testimony concerning Scripture

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness

God saw fit to include this story, and we must study it along with the more pleasant texts

Definition of expository preaching

Albert Mohler: “Expository preaching begins in the preacher’s determination to present and explain the text of the Bible to his congregation. ... [Most modern preaching, commonly called topical preaching] begins with a human problem or question and then work backward to the biblical text.” (from *Give Praise to God*, ed. Philip G. Ryken, p. 112]

Os Guinness, in his provocative book *Dining with the Devil*, talked about how “audience driven” is much modern preaching:

“The preacher, instead of looking out upon his world, looks out upon public opinion, trying to find out what the public would like to hear. Then he tries his best to duplicate that, and brings his finished product into a marketplace in which others are trying to do the same. The public, turning to our church culture to find out about the world, discovers there is nothing but its own reflection.” [from M. Dever, *Nine Marks*, p. 38]

Expository preaching honors God and is a high form of worship

- By it, we stand at the feet of God and say, “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”... then we are quiet and listen
- By it we stand at the feet of God and say, “We will hear whatever you have for us to hear”... then we are quiet and listen
- By it, we submit our minds and wills to the Scripture, and let it lead wherever it will

If we pick and choose what Scripture we will study, we are ruling the Bible, not letting the Bible rule us

My role as a preacher of the word of God: a man under authority with no right to change the message

ESV 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.

A trustworthy messenger has no right to change the message his master entrusted to him. Neither does a preacher have the right to pick and choose what Bible texts he will preach and which he will skip.

True corporate worship then, must have as its center, the exposition and hearing of the Word of God

Much modern worship focuses more on the issue of entertainment mixed with the possibility of a spiritual high.

Mohler: “Persons move from congregation to congregation looking for the worship experience that will meet its perceived spiritual needs. Worship is turned into just another consumer commodity. This focus on self ... comes from the sinfulness of the human heart. Christians leave church services asking each other, ‘Did you get anything out of that?’ Churches produce surveys to measure expectations for worship. Would you like more music? What kind? How about drama? Is our preacher sufficiently creative?”

“Expository preaching demands a very different set of questions. Will I obey the Word of God? How must my thinking be realigned by Scripture? How must I change my behavior to be fully obedient to the Word? These questions reveal submission to the authority of God and reverence for the Bible as his word.”

5. Central message of Scripture:

God is holy, man is desperately sinful and in danger of hell, Christ is the only Savior, we must repent and believe in Him for our salvation

Passage after passage teach these elements of Bible truth... the Bible is painfully obvious about the sins and failings of its great men and women

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

This account is very much like the earlier account of Noah, the great man of God, who after the flood, planted a vineyard, became drunk, and lay exposed in his tent. In both cases a godly man is brought low by wine, and his children sin against him, resulting in lasting problems for generations

God wanted us to be warned and to understand our own deceitful hearts

So we must NOT avoid this or any passage of scripture... we will come to God humbly and with soft hearts

We will hear what God Almighty has to say to us, and we will repent and please Him!

II. Lot's Sad Descent Completed

A. The End of Lot's Self-Preservation Strategy

1. Lot had pleaded with the angels to stay in Zoar

Genesis 19:17-22 As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!" 18 But Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please! 19 Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I'll die. 20 Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it-- it is very small, isn't it? Then my life will be spared." 21 He said to him, "Very well, I will grant this request too; I will not overthrow the town you speak of. 22 But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach it." (That is why the town was called Zoar.)

2. He had refused to trust the wisdom of God and had crafted a refuge for himself

John Calvin: "Those things men contrive for themselves by rash counsels, drawn from carnal reason, never prosper: especially when men, deluded by vain hope or impelled by depraved wishes, depart from the word of God."

3. In the end he did it God's way, but not in faith

vs. 30 Lot and his two daughters left Zoar and settled in the mountains, for he was afraid to stay in Zoar. He and his two daughters lived in a cave.

- a. “afraid to stay in Zoar”... the fear of unbelief
- b. afraid perhaps of the residents of that city, because they were as wicked as the people of Sodom
- c. afraid perhaps that God’s judgment would be poured out on them as well
- d. fear moved him again

Notice how passive and faithless Lot has become... not guided by the word of God, nor by trust in God, nor by courageous responsibility for his daughters... he is blown and tossed by the waves of fear and unbelief

B. Ascending Physically to Descend Morally

1. Lot went up to the mountains with his daughters
2. Lot ascended to escape danger
3. But he brought the greatest danger with him... his own sin nature, and his daughters
4. Oh... they also brought some wine

C. Lot’s Gradual Descent Completed in the Cave

"Sin always takes you farther than you want to go, keeps you longer than you want to stay, and charges you more than you want to pay."

Ron Hutchcraft: first sin fascinates you – then it assassinates you.

James 1:14-15 “Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

- began by lusting after Sodom’s prosperity
- continued by pitching his tent near Sodom
- next lived within Sodom itself
- shared in Sodom’s fate when Kedorlaomer attacked and carried him off
- rescued by Abram, but refused to heed God’s warning from that whole incident
- ended up immersed in Sodom’s society... sitting by the gate in perhaps an official function
- tormented daily by wickedness (more about that in a moment) BUT he never took control and moved out of Sodom
- allowed his family to become completely immersed in Sodom’s way of life and corrupted to their core

- offered his virgin daughters to the lust-crazed mob to save his guests
- highly reluctant to leave Sodom, the angel had to drag him out to save his life
- begged for a break from the harshness of living in the mountains, begged to flee to another smaller city Zoar instead... couldn't let go of the city life
- ended up drunk in a cave with his daughters, whose immorality and perversion is obvious

Lot may have been saved by grace, but his life was a waste

Lot's legacy was more warning than blessing

2. Warning to us: are you being gradually, slowly but surely polluted by the world?

Hebrews 3:12-13 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

This hardening happens slowly, but irresistibly

Like the building up of a callous on the hand... first the skin is rubbed raw, bleeds and is painful; then the skin grows back tougher and thicker; eventually the skin can be made as tough as shoe leather

Illus. 1960: Olympic marathon champion Ethiopian Abebe Bikila; ran 26.2 miles on the hot, rugged, unyielding cobblestone streets of Rome totally barefoot!!! His coach timed Bikila running with and without shoes and found that he actually ran faster without them. Over years of training his feet had accumulated incredibly tough calluses

So it is with the human heart... what is originally shocking and unthinkable becomes merely offensive, then it becomes humorous or interesting, then it becomes alluring, then it becomes a chosen part of life, then it enslaves, then it murders

All along the heart is gradually toughened, the conscience gradually seared

Perhaps it has to do with what you watch on television or look at on the internet; perhaps it has to do with the novels you read and their racy plot lines;

As a result of this gradual hardening, you no longer feel close to God, no longer want to study the Bible, pray in private, fast, or even go to church. Witnessing becomes a thing of the past, as does concern for the poor or lost in other parts of the world

The gradual hardening of the heart results in evil things becoming acceptable things, and good things becoming rejected, boring, offensive

This is the descent into Sodom

For Lot, it ended in this cave with his daughters

D. Lot: One of the Worst Fathers in the Bible

1. A father should lead in a daily example of godliness
2. The lips of the father should speak the truth
3. A father should protect his wife and children from physical danger
4. Even more importantly, a father should protect his children spiritually

What would it profit a father to give his children the world on a platter if they lose their souls eternally

A father must prepare his children to meet their maker on judgment day

5. Uniquely, a father is responsible to protect the chastity, the purity of his daughters

According to Deuteronomy 22, if a young woman in Israel was found to have been promiscuous before marriage, the blame was brought to her father's doorstep, literally. It was not just the young woman who was held accountable but her father as well. This is clear indication that one of the primary responsibility a father has to keep his daughters sexually pure until marriage

Lot partially accomplished this until the night the angels came to his house, since these two daughters had never been with a man until that night

But their morally confused father was willing to sacrifice his daughters' purity that night to protect the guests in his home

vs. 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."

What happened in the cave was merely Lot's moral confusion coming home to roost

What their father treated so lightly in Sodom they treated lightly in the cave... their purity

E. What Were the Daughters Thinking?

1. One commentator: they believed they were the last people on earth

Genesis 19:31 And the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of all the earth."

2. This makes no sense: they had already seen survivors in Zoar
3. They should have trusted in the Lord to provide them with husbands

4. Notice how the older daughter led her younger sister into wickedness

vs. 32-33 Let's get our father to drink wine and then lie with him and preserve our family line through our father." 33 That night they got their father to drink wine, and the older daughter went in and lay with him. He was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up.

34 The next day the older daughter said to the younger, "Last night I lay with my father. Let's get him to drink wine again tonight, and you go in and lie with him so we can preserve our family line through our father." 35 So they got their father to drink wine that night also, and the younger daughter went and lay with him. Again he was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up.

Hers was the concept, hers the persuasion, hers the initial act, hers the persuasion after the fact

F. The Devastating Effects of Alcohol

1. The Scripture partially exonerates Lot... in the area of the act itself
2. BUT Lot evidently had a weakness for wine
3. Wine destroys judgment, and makes the unthinkable doable

Proverbs 23:29-35 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? 30 Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine. 31 Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly! 32 In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper. 33 Your eyes will see strange sights and your mind imagine confusing things. 34 You will be like one sleeping on the high seas, lying on top of the rigging. 35 "They hit me," you will say, "but I'm not hurt! They beat me, but I don't feel it! When will I wake up so I can find another drink?"

Because of alcohol, a person can let down their guard... they can allow things to happen without fully realizing what is going on

Satan especially uses this in the area of physical intimacy... barriers can be lowered and transgressed without fully understanding what is going on

Lot allowed himself to get drunk two nights in a row, and here was his second great sin

First, in poorly training his daughters; secondly, in allowing himself to get drunk (especially in front of them)

Ephesians 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

III. Devastating Effects of the Sin in the Cave

A. Pandora's Box: A World of Evil from the Cave

Greek mythology... Jupiter wanting to exact revenge on human race for stealing the secret of fire; he sent a mysterious box to Pandora. Left alone with the box, Pandora became more and more inquisitive. Stealthily she untied the knot and the cord slipped to the ground.

Pandora had repeatedly fancied that sounds like whispers issued from the box. The noise now seemed to increase, and she breathlessly applied her ear to the lid to ascertain whether it really proceeded from within. Imagine, therefore, her surprise when she distinctly heard these words, uttered in the most pitiful accents: " Pandora, dear Pandora, have pity upon us ! Free us from this gloomy prison! Open, open, we beseech you!"

Pandora's heart beat so fast and loud, that it seemed for a moment to drown all other sounds. Precipitately, therefore, she raised the lid to have one little peep.

Now, Jupiter had malignantly crammed into this box all the diseases, sorrows, vices, and crimes that afflict poor humanity; and the box was no sooner opened, than all these ills flew out, in the guise of horrid little brown-winged creatures, closely resembling moths. These little insects fluttered about, alighting upon Pandora, pricking and stinging her most unmercifully. They then flew out through the open door and windows, and fastened upon the partyers outside, whose shouts of joy were soon changed into wails of pain and anguish.

This is the mythological account of how evil entered the world... a world of evil flying from a small box untied and opened by a single person.

So it was that a world of evil for Abraham's descendents emerged from the sordid episode in the cave

Lot's daughters carried out from the cave the forefathers of two of Israel's bitterest enemies: the Moabites and the Ammonites

B. The Birth of the Moabites and Ammonites

1. Moab = "from father"
2. Ben-ammi = "son of my people"
3. Two of the most troublesome people for Israel came from that cave
4. They settled in the desert regions east of the Dead Sea, near Israel's eastern border
5. They scratched out their existence from poor farmland
6. Most especially, they HATED Abraham's descendants, the Jews

C. What Devastation Came from the Moabites and Ammonites?

1. Constant opposition and warfare
 - They opposed and cursed Abraham's children every step of the way
 - They refused to allow Israel to pass through their land en route to the Promised Land

- Balak, the King of Moab, hired evil prophet Balaam, to curse Israel as they were passing by en route to the Promised Land
- Once Israel was established in their own land, the Moabites and Ammonites formed constant raiding parties against them, and fought against them at almost every opportunity
- They gloated whenever Israel suffered judgment from God, and as a result God judged them most severely

2. Corruption by Immorality

More devastating was Balaam's suggestion to pollute Israel with sensual temptation

Numbers 31:16 "They were the ones who followed Balaam's advice and were the means of turning the Israelites away from the LORD in what happened at Peor, so that a plague struck the LORD's people."

Israelite men joined Moabite women in sexual immorality

Numbers 25:1-3 While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, 2 who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate and bowed down before these gods. 3 So Israel joined in worshipping the Baal of Peor. And the LORD's anger burned against them.

3. Corruption by Idolatry

It was also through Moab and Ammonite that all the false deities they worshiped entered Israel's life

Baal Chemosh Molech

These false deities plagued Israel throughout their lives in the Promised Land

It all began in Numbers 25, with the worship of the Baal of Peor, BUT IT DIDN'T END THERE

King Solomon was especially guilty of importing Moabite and Ammonite gods because of his love for their women

1 Kings 11: 1-7 King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter-- Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. ... 4 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. 5 He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. 6 So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done. 7 On a hill east of Jerusalem,

Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites.

Eventually, Solomon's descendent Manasseh even sacrificed his own son, almost certainly to the Ammonite god Molech: This sin the Lord God NEVER FORGAVE, and it was this that eventually led to the destruction of Jerusalem under the Babylonians

All of this came from the cave: constant opposition, cursing, immorality, idolatry, the spiritual diseases which eventually led to Israel's downfall... And frequently coming because of the sensual beauty of the daughters of Moab and Ammon, more than the swords of the sons of Moab and Ammon

D. Moab and Ammon Rejected by God to the Tenth Generation (and Beyond?)

Deuteronomy 23:3 No Ammonite or Moabite or any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even down to the tenth generation.

Nehemiah 13:1 On that day the Book of Moses was read aloud in the hearing of the people and there it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever be admitted into the assembly of God

This is the evil river that flowed from the cave of Lot and his daughters... a river of trouble for the people of God: Constant warfare and opposition; Corruption by Immorality; Corruption by Idolatry

But amazingly, in the Redemptive Plan of God, a Savior was born to all the earth from the outcome of that cave

IV. Christ: A Savior Born from and for Wickedness

Illus. Tributaries to the Amazon

In May of 1499, an Italian mapmaker, geographer and explorer named Amerigo Vespucci was sailing with an expedition along the coast of what came to be known as Brazil. He came to a point where he noticed the water surrounding the ship was all fresh water, despite the fact that he was 200 miles from the shore! He was astonished and followed this huge mass of fresh water to the coastline from which it came... it was the first encounter of a European with the mighty Amazon River. Two hundred miles out to sea and the water was fresh!!

The Amazon River is thought to be the second longest in the world, behind only the Nile. The Amazon however, at any one point in time has the highest amount of water flowing down it. No other river even comes close. 4.2 million cubic feet of water per second normally (up to 7 million during flood stage) flows out the mouth into the Atlantic Ocean... The Amazon produces approximately 20 percent of all the water that the world's rivers pour into the oceans on its own.

The Amazon collects water from just over 40 percent of South America's landmass, through over a thousand tributaries that join the main branch of the Amazon river. Of these tributaries, 17 are over 1000 miles long.

The tributaries of the Amazon flow from all over the northern part of South America, from perhaps as many as twelve different countries, from as far away as 200 miles from the Pacific Ocean clear across the continent.

The entire land mass is like an upside-down saucer into which flows massive amounts of rainwater through these tributaries... it is the tributaries that make the Amazon the most massive fresh water source in the world.

So it is with the genealogy of Christ, and the outflow of blessing that has come from His birth

Two of the tributaries of Christ's genealogy came from the cave we are studying today!!

A. Christ Born from Wickedness

1. The Moabites originated in the cave... an ungodly beginning for a MOSTLY ungodly people
2. The Moabite women seduced Israel into following the Baal of Peor and brought great wrath on Israel
3. However... it was a godly young Moabite woman Ruth who changed the history of the world

It was Ruth the Moabite who married a Jewish man from Bethlehem named Mahlon

After Mahlon died, his mother Naomi, also a widow, decided to go back to Judah...

She urged her daughter-in-law to go back to her people and her gods... Chemosh, Baal, and Ashtoreth

Ruth 1:16 But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God."

Ruth was humble, submissive, a hard worker, and a godly young woman.

She gleaned extra barley from the field of a man named Boaz, and caught his eye with her gentle, humble, submissive hard work, and the way she blessed her Jewish mother-in-law, Naomi

At Naomi's urging, Ruth initiated openness to Boaz that they might be married

Boaz, one of the great husbands of the Bible, gently took her in and married her...

Their son was Boaz, his son was Jesse, and Jesse's son was David

This godly young woman Ruth was directly descended from the wickedness of the cave... no Moabite MAN could enter the assembly of the Lord... but the son of a Moabite convert to Judaism could!!

This is the woman whose name was written in the genealogy of our Savior Jesus Christ in Matthew 1:7

From this Moabite woman came the Savior of the world!

A Savior born from wickedness

4. So it was also concerning the other son born from Lot and his daughters, the Ammonites
 - a. King Solomon married many woman

1 Kings 11:3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines

- b. from these Solomon must have had a vast number of sons, any of whom could have been his successor
- c. God chose Rehoboam from all of them to be ruler over Judah
- d. Rehoboam's mother was an Ammonite!!!!!!**

1 Kings 14:21 Rehoboam son of Solomon was king in Judah. He was forty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel in which to put his Name. His mother's name was Naamah; she was an Ammonite.

5. The Genealogy of Christ: A Savior Born from Wickedness

Judah sleeps with a woman he met by the side of the road... he thought she was a prostitute, she turned out to be his own daughter-in-law in disguise. She had a son by him named Perez, an ancestor of Christ.

Lot's daughters have sons by their own father... from the older daughter came the Moabites, who were nothing but trouble for Israel... through them came constant opposition and warfare, corruption by immorality, and corruption by idolatry. **HOWEVER** Ruth, a godly Moabitess converted to worship the true God, married godly Boaz, had a son who became the grandfather of King David, and an ancestor of Christ

David himself was a man after God's own heart. But one hot night he was walking around on the roof of his palace and he saw a beautiful woman named Bathsheba bathing, and she was another man's wife. He took her and slept with her... and she conceived. To cover up his sin, David had her husband Uriah killed, and he took her to be his wife. God was greatly displeased with this wickedness, and the first child born to them died. However, they had another son, Solomon, and God loved him. Solomon was an ancestor of Christ.

Lot's other daughter conceived and gave birth to the father of the Ammonites; from them also came constant opposition and warfare, corruption by immorality and idolatry. Through them Solomon was corrupted and worshiped Molech. It was to this detestable god Molech that Israel actually sacrificed their own little children, something the Lord never commanded nor did it enter His mind. Even one of the Kings of Judah, Manasseh, sacrificed one of his sons in the fire. God never forgave the national implications of this sin. **YET** for all the

trouble that came to Israel from the Ammonites, Solomon's successor, Rehoboam, came from an Ammonite woman. Rehoboam was also an ancestor of Christ

Throughout the genealogy of Christ are scattered constant reminders that Christ was a Savior born from wickedness... that God seemed to choose some of the seediest and most embarrassing moments in Israel's history to include in the genealogy.

THIS WAS INTENTIONAL!!!

B. Christ Born FOR Wickedness

1. Christ came into the world to save us from our sins
2. If there had not been such wickedness in the human heart, Christ would never have needed to be born
3. If we had all been basically good people, Christ would never have needed to be born
4. If we could have saved ourselves, Christ died needlessly
5. Sin was the reason for His birth and His life's ministry was reversing the effects of sin's devastation on humanity... every miraculous healing was Christ's attack on sin
6. In the end, it was wickedness that killed Christ... the murder of Jesus Christ was the greatest crime this world has ever seen

Peter put it this way on the day of Pentecost:

Acts 2:23 This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

7. Jesus was killed by wicked Jewish leaders acting from selfishness, fear, and jealousy
8. Jesus was killed by a mob who were led like sheep to call for His death
9. Jesus was killed by a weak, vacillating Roman governor who knew He was innocent, had the power to release him, but because of fear of the crowd chose to execute Him instead
10. Jesus was killed by Roman soldiers blindly carrying out their orders
11. But more than anything, Jesus was killed by the justice of God, the righteous judge... for Jesus had received the guilt for all our wickedness, for all our sins on Himself... and He was suffering the just punishment we deserved by shedding His blood under the wrath of God

Isaiah 53:4-6 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed

for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Truly Jesus was a Savior born from wickedness and for wickedness... it was wickedness that gave Him birth through the genealogy of sin... and it was wickedness that killed Him at Calvary

The episode in the cave is a sordid one... but it shows a basic lesson of the Redemptive History...

C. Where Sin Abounds, Grace Abounds All the More

Romans 5:20-21 But where sin abounded, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

V. Applications

1. Learn from Lot's Dreadful Descent

When Lot stood on that ridge overlooking the lush, green valley of Sodom and Gomorrah, he probably never dreamed he would end up in a cave, drunk, with his daughters corrupted, the rest of his family dead, and all his possessions incinerated by the wrath of God

It was a long, slow descent to that level, and a warning to us all

Lot ignored the warning signs... and he paid the price!

Lot should have left Sodom while there was still time to save his family

Warning to us: are you being gradually, slowly but surely polluted by the world?

Are you watching things on TV or in movies that you would never have watched earlier in your Christian lives?

Are you less and less interested in the Bible and prayer, and more and more interested in the things of this world?

Hebrews 3:12-13 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

1 John 2:15-16 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

2. Beware the dangers of alcohol

It diffuses judgment... it makes the unthinkable doable... it results in a sickened groan when the effects wear off and you discover what you have done

3. See all the trouble that can come from one incident... like Pandora's Box, a river of evil flowed from that cave... nothing but difficulty for the descendents of Abraham... single events rarely make a lifetime, but some of them can... **BE VERY CAREFUL, THEN, HOW YOU LIVE**
4. Fathers: take responsibility for the purity and training of your daughters... it is a Biblical principle that fathers are physically, morally, and spiritually responsible for their daughters until they are married... Lot treated his daughters' purity as a cheap commodity to be traded when necessary... it wasn't long after that that his daughter's gave their purity away
5. Central lesson: the lesson of the cross... **GRACE TRIUMPHS OVER SIN**... grace even uses human sin to accomplish God's end

Only the cross can do it, though!!

Romans 5:20-21 But where sin abounded, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Come to Christ today!!