

March 16/17, 2002

Study Questions
By Faith We Live: A Study of the Life of Abraham
Faith and Compromise
Genesis 19:1-38

Opening Discussion

1. What do most people believe about God's wrath and judgment? Do you think most people believe they are deserving of God's wrath? Why or why not?
2. Define "compromise" in the negative sense. Why do people compromise? Does it work?
3. How does faith affect whether we compromise or not? Is compromise a result of a lack of faith?

Bible Study

1. Read Genesis 19:1-3. What comparisons can be made from Genesis 18:1-8? What is the point of these comparisons?
2. Read Genesis 13:10-11. Why did Lot go to Sodom?

Notice the progression from ... looking (13:10) ... set up tent near (13:12) ... living in (14:12) ... at the gate (19:1) to ... hesitating to leave (19:16). What does this progression teach us about the descent into worldliness?

How does this progression compare with Psalm 1:1 and James 1:14,15?

3. Clearly the sin of Sodom singled out in this passage is homosexuality. What does Paul say about this sin in Romans 1:18-27? In 1 Cor. 6:9-11?

How should we as believers respond to homosexuals in our culture? Is homosexuality an unpardonable sin? How do we respond to people involved in other forms of sin?

4. What influence did Lot have over the people of Sodom or his family? (19:9-26) Why was that, in your opinion?

What price did he pay for his lack of influence?

5. Why do you think Lot hesitated in 19:16?

Why did the angels literally have to drag them out of Sodom?

6. Genesis 19:27-29 pictures Abraham as one who stands above the judgment and watches. Why does the writer include Abraham into the story at that point?
7. Lot was afraid to go to the mountains, so he talked the angels into letting him go to Zoar. Then he is afraid in Zoar and ends up in the mountains in a cave. His daughters get him drunk, then have relations with him so they can have children. Why do you suppose the writer gives us that last glimpse of the life of Lot?

Application

1. Go back to Genesis 13 when Lot and Abraham parted company. What choices did they make then and what were the long-term results of those choices?

Put in one sentence what you learned from Lot.

2. What practical things can you do to prevent the progression into compromise that Lot experienced? Try to list 3 practical ideas.
3. Is worldliness and compromise ultimately an issue of geography or an issue of the heart?

This explains why legalism doesn't work. Ultimately walking uprightly must come from a heart that desires to walk in obedience. No amount of rules can compensate for a heart that longs for Sodom. How is such a heart cultivated?

4. Spend time in prayer asking God to cultivate a heart of obedience in you.