

Lot Got It Wrong

Lesson 02 of the series "CounterCultural"

I. Abram's nephew, Lot, selfishly moved his family into a sinful culture in order to get ahead.

"Abram said to Lot, 'Let's not allow this conflict to come between us or our herdsman... Take your choice of any section of the land you want, and we will separate... Lot took a long look at the fertile plains of the Jordan Valley... Lot chose for himself the whole Jordan Valley to the east of them... So Abram settled in the land of Canaan, and Lot moved his tents to a place near Sodom and settled among the cities of the plain. But the people of this area were extremely wicked and constantly sinned against the LORD."

Genesis 13:5-13 (NLT)

Note: Compromise with a sinful culture is a "slippery slope". "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers." Psalm 1:1 (NIV)

II. Lot compromised with the sinful culture around him.

a. Lot didn't influence his culture as much as his culture influenced him.

"...two angels came to the entrance of the city of Sodom. Lot was sitting there, and when he saw them, he stood up to meet them. Then he welcomed them and bowed with his face to the ground. "My lords," he said, "come to my home to wash your feet, and be my guests for the night..." "Oh no," they replied. "We'll just spend the night out here in the city square." But Lot insisted, so at last they went home with him... But before they retired for the night, all the men of Sodom, young and old, came from all over the city and surrounded the house. They shouted to Lot, "Where are the men who came to spend the night with you? Bring them out to us so we can have sex with them!" So Lot stepped outside to talk to them, shutting the door behind him. "Please, my brothers," he begged, "don't do such a wicked thing. Look, I have two virgin daughters. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do with them as you wish. But please, leave these men alone, for they are my guests and are under my protection." "Stand back!" they shouted. "This fellow came to town as an outsider, and now he's acting like our judge! We'll treat you far worse than those other men!" And they lunged toward Lot to break down the door. But the two angels reached out, pulled Lot into the house, and bolted the door. Then they blinded all the men, young and old, who were at the door of the house, so they gave up trying to get inside. Meanwhile, the angels questioned Lot. "Do you have any other relatives here in the city?" they asked. "Get them out of this place... The outcry against this place is so great it has reached the LORD, and he has sent us to destroy it." So Lot rushed out to tell his daughters' fiancés, "Quick, get out of the city! The LORD is about to destroy it." But the young men thought he was only joking." Genesis 19:1-32 (NLT)

Life Application: To make a difference in our culture we must be different.

"Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us." 1 Peter 2:11-12 (NIV)

b. Lot lost his position, his possessions and his wife.

"Hurry," they said to Lot. "Take your wife and your two daughters who are here. Get out right now, or you will be swept away in the destruction of the city!" When Lot still hesitated, the angels seized his hand and the hands of his wife and two daughters and rushed them to safety outside the city, for the LORD was merciful. When they were safely out of the city, one of the angels ordered, "Run for your lives! And don't look back or stop anywhere in the valley!" ...Then the LORD rained down fire and burning sulfur from the sky on Sodom and Gomorrah. He utterly destroyed them, along with the other cities and villages of the plain, wiping out all the people and every bit of vegetation. But Lot's wife looked back as she was following behind him, and she turned into a pillar of salt."

Genesis 19:15-17, 24-26 (NLT)

Life Application: We must love God more than we love the things our culture gives us.

"Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever." 1 John 2:15-17 (NLT)

“Remember what happened to Lot’s wife! If you cling to your life, you will lose it, and if you let your life go, you will save it.” Luke 17:32-33 (NLT)

- c. Lot’s compromise with his culture impacted his kids.

“Afterward Lot... went to live in a cave in the mountains with his two daughters. One day the older daughter said to her sister, “There isn’t a man anywhere in this entire area for us to marry. And our father will soon be too old to have children. Come, let’s get him drunk with wine, and then we will sleep with him. That way we will preserve our family line through our father.” Genesis 19:30-32 (NLT)

Life Application: How we relate to our culture necessarily impacts others.

“Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’” 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

III. **God rescued Lot and his family because of Abraham’s prayers.**

“So the LORD told Abraham, ‘I have heard a great outcry from Sodom and Gomorrah, because their sin is so flagrant. I am going down to see if their actions are as wicked as I have heard.’ ...Abraham approached him and said, ‘Will you sweep away both the righteous and the wicked? Suppose you find fifty righteous people living there in the city—will you still sweep it away and not spare it for their sakes? Surely you wouldn’t do such a thing, destroying the righteous along with the wicked... Should not the Judge of all the earth do what is right?’ And the LORD replied, ‘If I find fifty righteous people in Sodom, I will spare the entire city for their sake.’ Then Abraham spoke again... ‘Suppose there are only forty-five righteous people rather than fifty?... only forty? ...suppose only thirty righteous people are found? ...only twenty?’ Finally, Abraham said, ‘Lord, please don’t be angry with me if I speak one more time. Suppose only ten are found there?’ And the LORD replied, ‘Then I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten.’ ...God had listened to Abraham’s request and kept Lot safe, removing him from the disaster that engulfed the cities on the plain.” Genesis 18:20-32,19:29 (NLT)

Life Application: We must keep praying for the salvation of lost sinners in our culture!

“I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.” 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NLT)

“God also rescued Lot out of Sodom... the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment.” 2 Peter 2:9 (NLT)

“The Lord... is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.” 2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

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Connect Group Discussion Questions:

1. Read Genesis 18:20-32, 19:29 & James 5:16. What role did Abraham play in Lot's rescue from the destruction of Sodom? Why did Abraham keep coming back to the Lord? What did Abraham believe about God's justice and mercy? Has anyone ever prayed for you on a consistent basis? If so, who? What difference did it make in your life?
2. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-5 and 2 Peter 3:8-9. Why should we pray for our culture? What should we pray? How urgent is this?
3. Download the "Pray for our Nation" prayer guide from the resources menu at www.centeringlives.com. Spend some time as a group praying over any of the items that speak to your heart.
4. Read Genesis 19:30-38 & 1 Corinthians 15:33. What role did the culture of Sodom play in the character development of Lot's daughters? Are Christians in America today the influencers or the ones being influenced? What determines this? What needs to change?
5. Read Genesis 19:15-26, 1 John 2:15-17 & Luke 17:32-33. Why did Lot's wife look back even though the angels told her not to do so? What did Jesus mean when he said, "If you cling to your life, you will lose it, and if you let your life go, you will save it?" Why can't we love Jesus AND the things of this world?
6. React to the following quotations:

"Sow an act and you reap a habit. Sow a habit and you reap a character. Sow a character and you reap a destiny." Charles Reade, English novelist

"But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent." Peter in 2 Peter 3:8-9 (NLT)

"He who walks with wise *men* will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed." Solomon in Proverbs 13:20 (NKJV)

"The true man of God is heartsick, grieved at the worldliness of the Church, grieved at the toleration of sin in the Church, grieved at the prayerlessness in the Church. He is disturbed that the corporate prayer of the Church no longer pulls down the strongholds of the devil." Leonard Ravenhill, English evangelist

"If you can't see the sun you will be impressed with a street light. If you've never felt thunder and lightning you'll be impressed with fireworks. And if you turn your back on the greatness and majesty of God you'll fall in love with a world of shadows and short-lived pleasures." John Piper, American pastor and author.