

## **INTRODUCTION: GENESIS 19**

- When I was 13 when Jesus revealed Himself to me (55 years ago)
- One of the hardest things for me to see... to this day... are people who were once strong in the faith give in to compromise
- Joshua Harris, the author of the book *I Kissed Dating Goodbye* which shaped the purity culture for a generation of Millennials recently posted on social media that he was no longer a Christian
- This announcement came after he separated from his wife and resigned as the pastor of a mega-church
- Shortly afterwards... one of the main worship leaders at Hillsong, Marty Sampson, who wrote songs like *God is Great* and *I Believe* also announced that he is genuinely losing his faith
- Then this week Todd Bentley, a well-known Faith Healer was exposed by a former staff member for engaging in sexual relations with both men and women
- I can go on and on with examples of prominent leaders that have been mentioned in the news who gave in to compromise in their lives and as a result lost their ministry and in some cases... their faith
- Here's the cold reality
- Compromise is like high blood pressure... it's a silent killer and it is no respecter of persons...
- It doesn't matter how big or small your ministry is (all of us are in the ministry by the way), it doesn't matter... it attacks at all levels
- But compromise isn't something that happens overnight...
- It silently creeps in over time and the stages of compromise are clear
- So today we're going to look at the 3 stages of compromise taken from Lot's life... you might want to write them down

***First... the attraction stage***  
***Second... the attachment stage***  
***Third... The assimilation stage***

### ***First the attraction stage***

- Genesis 13 tells us Lot was a very wealthy man with flocks, herds and tents
- Abraham and Lot grew in numbers to the point where the land could not support both families
- So Abraham gives Lot the first pick... you pick where you want to live and I'll take the land you don't want...

Genesis 13:10–13 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar.

<sup>11</sup> Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. <sup>12</sup> Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched *his* tent even as far as Sodom. <sup>13</sup> But the men of Sodom *were* exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.

***Notice... Lot lifted up his eyes, saw and chose***

- He picked the land that looked the most beautiful, the most attractive
- Lot was drawn by what he saw... looking at the external
- Whereas Abraham was content with whatever the Lord gave him
- The Bible says the plain of Jordan was just like the garden of Eden
- And the Bible says Lot journeyed east
- Whenever you see someone journeying east... it's usually symbolic of them leaving the Presence of the Lord
- When Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden they headed east
- So Lot separates from Abraham and heads east to Sodom which was on the opposite side of the Jordan Valley
- This is significant because God speaks to Abraham in Hebron, underneath the terebinth trees of Mamre, thus Lot is physically moving away from the place where he knows God speaks
- To live in Sodom where Vs. 13 tells us the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord

***Peter gives us some perspective on Lot***

2 Peter 2:8 says

Lot, that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds

- Lot was attracted to the beauty of Sodom, but once he was there he was tormented by seeing and hearing the illegal deeds they were doing
- He walked away from the presence of the Lord to pursue that which caught his attention, attracted him

### ***That's how compromise happens***

- You don't intend to walk away from the Lord
- It's not something you consciously think... I'm going to leave my faith
- It happens one step at a time as you walk towards something you're attracted to, something that you desire
- Each step you take is further away from the Presence of the Lord
- It could be a new set of friends, a new job, a desire to go back to school, a new season of life like retirement or a sudden increase in income
- All good things, but all too often these new attractions in our lives begin to push out going to Bible Study, going to Church, reading the Bible, prayer
- Gradually without thinking about it, you spend more and more time in the world and less and less time in God's Presence with God's people
- Which leads into the next stage...

### ***The Second Stage is the attachment stage***

- It's when you begin to identify more with people outside the church than inside the church

Genesis 19:1 (NKJV)

**19** Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw *them*, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.

- Sodom's King was notoriously evil
- The gates of the city is where the King would sit
- The gates were where the city leaders met and business was conducted
- The fact that Lot is in the gates of the city tells us that Lot is a leader in a city that is known for wickedness

Psalms 1:1 (NKJV)

**1** Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful

### ***Notice the progression of compromise***

- First you walk in the counsel of the ungodly
- Instead of listening to God's Word, you listen to your worldly friends
- Instead of Godly counsel, you get expert advice from the world's counselors

- Then you stand in the path of sinners
- You start walking with them, living with them, spending time with them
- Finally you're sitting in the seat of the scornful
- You take on the attitude of the world and you're mocking other believers
- In this stage You start to attach yourself to the values and priorities of the world system by how you choose to spend your time
- You become more and more isolated from God's people and through relationship exposed to the world which results in you become more and more oppressed by the world

EX: Roxie took me to one of my favorite restaurants for my birthday and she arranged for us to go on the train. Going down the train was filled with Comicon people and coming back the train was filled with drunk people. It's been a long time since we've been in that kind of environment and it was grieving to us... just seeing and hearing people caught up in the world.

***Peter says Lot was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked***

- The word oppressed is "kataponeo"
- "kata" means "down" and "ponos" means "toil or anguish" and so this word means "to wear down with toil (harassment)," "to labor down," "to exhaust with persecution"
- Simply by living in Sodom, seeing and hearing their open defiance to God's law wore Lot down... his righteous soul being tormented daily
- There are things we live with that previous generations would never have lived with because Christians have been worn down by ungodly people pushing their agendas on you
- Previous generations would never have allowed men to go into women's bathrooms because they identify themselves as women
- Previous generations would never have allowed another system of law to govern over portions of the United States of America
- Previous generations would never have presumed to change the definition of marriage to include two people of the same sex
- But this generation has... how did it happen? Slowly over time
- As each generation walks further away from the Lord, they become more and more attached to the world

1 John 2:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

- Once you become attached to the world system it's just a matter of time before you become part of the world system
- This brings us to our last stage...

***The THIRD stage is the ASSIMILATION Stage***

- Where you become part of the world system
- This is what happened to Joshua Harris and Marty Sampson
- They became attached to the world, took up the complaints of the world and now they are part of the world

***When the men of Sodom surrounded Lot's house...***

- They demanded that Lot release his guests to them so they could sexually assault them
- Lot goes out to reason with them and listen to what they say about Lot

Genesis 19:9 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay *here*, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door.

- **NOTICE:** this one came in to stay here (he moved into our city) and he keeps acting as a "judge"
- A judge is someone who upholds the law of the land
- A judge is someone who represents wrong and right
- Sodom was known for iniquities against the Lord and now Lot is defending the wickedness of the city as a judge... no wonder his soul was tormented

***Now what was the Iniquity or Sin of Sodom?***

Ezekiel 16:49–50 (NKJV)

<sup>49</sup> Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. <sup>50</sup> And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw *fit*.

- **NOTE:** God doesn't mention that Sodom was a city that provided young children as sex slaves to the other cities in the Jordan plain
- It doesn't mention homosexuality which is referred to as Sodomy, named after the city of Sodom
- From God's perspective their sin was the sin of pride
- Pride in itself is not wrong... it's good show pride in your work
- It's good to be proud of someone who does a good job
- But it becomes wrong when there is a shift of confidence from God to myself where I stop depending on God and I become self sufficient
- Thus pride in the context of Genesis 19 is self-exaltation, arrogance, presumption and it leads to a cynical insensitivity to the needs of others
- Pride causes me to see myself as better than you and once I see myself as better than you, then I become your judge and I can dehumanize you
- Really pride is at the root of all sin, especially homosexuality and all sexual sins... I know better than God for my life... I know who I really am
- God got it wrong, put me in the wrong body, gave me the wrong desires
- That's arrogance and pride

### ***God also said they had fullness of food***

- Meaning they were eating so much they couldn't eat anymore
- They were satiated
- They also had time on their hands... so much time God said they had an abundance of idleness
- Now this is an interesting word... because the word idle means "rest, tranquil, physically quiet, motionless, inactive"
- They were living a peaceful, quiet life, not doing a thing
- Now God promises to give His beloved rest
- We are told to strive to enter into God's rest
- But the Bible doesn't teach that we're to settle into inactivity
- Rather, we're to stay busy... Exodus 20:8-10 God commanded that man work 6 days a week, but on the 7<sup>th</sup> day we were to rest
- But Abraham is before the law... so what is God concerned about
- In vs. 49 God says Sodom did not strengthen the hand of the poor and needy
- They had the resources, they had the time but were filled with pride and didn't want to be associated with the poor and needy so they let the poor and needy go without and worse...

- They took advantage of the poor and needy

Jeffrey Epstein has been in the news after being arrested on charges of sex trafficking. One of his friends reported hearing him laugh after being gifted with a 12 year old girl for his birthday. What he laughed about? The parents were so poor they had to sell their daughter and he took advantage of them

- That is what the King of Sodom was guilty of... instead of helping the poor and needy he took advantage of them
- Being a judge... Lot knew the evil that was going on and did nothing to stop it... he was assimilated, part of the system... and so he accepted it

### ***Now how did Lot get out of compromise?***

- Peter says the **LORD** knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations
- Lot was so deep, he wasn't aware that he needed a way out
- He needed to be rescued and the Lord literally took Lot out by the hand
- Even when Lot knew Sodom was going to be destroyed, he dragged his feet, he was lingering... because he was assimilated, part of the culture
- But I also believe Abraham had a hand in Lot's rescue through prayer
- Genesis 18 records Abraham negotiating with God... if there are 50 righteous will you spare the city and he goes all the way down to 10
- I think Abraham was thinking Lot had 10 people in his family
- Ultimately, there weren't even 10 righteous but God couldn't destroy Sodom until Lot was completely out of the area
- **POINT:** Don't underestimate the power of persistent prayer
- If you've got a prodigal in your family, someone who has walked away from the Lord, someone who has given into compromise... **PRAY**
- As long as they belong to the LORD, the LORD knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations... He knows how to rescue Lot
- How do you pray... you bind the spiritual darkness that is blinding them and you ask God to release the revelation of His love and grace
- If you are married, you have the legal right and authority to command demonic powers off your marriage... use your spiritual authority
- If you are in a life of compromise... simply return the LORD...
- God doesn't want you to be judged with this world, He wants you to be free, to be restored, to be filled with joy, to experience His abundant life