

19-9-21: Lot and His Daughters

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**. ³¹ One day the **older daughter said to the younger**, "Our father is old, and **there is no man around here to give us children**—as is the custom all over the earth. ³² Let's **get our father to drink wine and then sleep 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 slept 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 slept with my father. Let's get him to drink wine again tonight, and you go in and sleep 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 in and slept with him. **Again he was not aware of it** when she lay down or when she got up.

³⁶ So both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father. ³⁷ The **older daughter had a son**, and she named him Moab^[a]; he is the **father of the Moabites** of today. ³⁸ The **younger daughter also had a son**, and she named him Ben-Ammi^[b]; he is the **father of the Ammonites**^[c] of today.



SERMON 19-9-21: Lot and his daughters – slow fade

Open by reading Luke 17:20-37

What were the days of Lot? The days of Noah?

BCP last page "A Table of Kindred and Affinity"; Lev 18:1-23 list of sexual sins ending in bestiality;

²⁴ *"Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. (Lev 18:24)*

According to the Metro Online's most controversial at no 8 was Nat and Georgia Simpson from 1996 Brookside who were Brother and Sister yet carried on a relationship in fear that people would find out their true family ties.

According to the Sun online, they report eight times where people from around the world including USA, Ireland, Brazil and UK, who subsequent to marrying found out that they were in fact related – siblings or in one case a woman found out posthumously that her husband was in fact her father.

The subject of our story today, incestuous relationships and worse, seems to rattle even the modern day sensibilities. Unusually for modern mores, Leviticus seems to be still relevant to the 21st century generation.

It didn't stop with the OT. Paul wrote to the Corinthians: *5 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife. 2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning (1 Cor 5:1-2)*

And at the centre of all of these stories are three characters:

- God and his good plan for the lives of his people, boundaried lives, lives with him
- The people who are at the centre of the story
- Those round about – "the world"

The model is that the people in the centre of the story are centered on God, on his good plan and within his boundaries. The boundaries can get distorted though, especially when the world comes up with boundaries that are not from God; godless boundaries.

Lets go back to get some of the back story and context before we try to make sense of the events of today's reading.

Abraham	Lot
11 Terah has three sons – Abram, Nahor and Haran Called to Canaan from Haran	Haran's son – one sister Iscah; Abrams nephew and Terah is his grandad Dad dies before set off; Terah sets out gets to a place called Haran – he dies there
12 Receives a promise of a great nation, goes to Egypt, lies about Sarai as his sister	Goes to Egypt
13 So wealthy don't know what to do – men start quarrelling; offers Lot any land Land of Canaan promised to Abram	Lot chooses the plain as far as Zoar and the city of Sodom; told 12:12 that men of Sodom were wicked
14 WAR –	Sodom and 4 other cities rebel against 3 in charge; Sodom ransacked Lot is taken away

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked (Psalm 1:1)

Being tempted is not wicked, giving in to temptation is. We call it sin.

There is a casting crowns song , Slow Fade:

*For it's the little feet behind you (Lot's daughters)
That are sure to follow*

*It's a slow fade
When you give yourself away
It's a slow fade
When black and white have turned to gray
And thoughts invade, choices made
A price will be paid*

*When you give yourself away
People never crumble in a day* (Lot chose to live in the plan and settle in Sodom. It was a wicked place. But he chose to stay. He may have found it wicked and told himself he would stay righteous. But he stayed for 25 years and year by year, decision by decision, blind eye by blind eye he seems to have experienced a slow fade).

It's a slow fade

*Be careful little ears what you hear
When flattery leads to compromise* (We are told that Lot sat at the gate – after 25 years he is an elder of the city. What compromises has he made to get to that position?)

The end is always near

Be careful little lips what you say

For empty words and promises

Lead broken hearts astray (When faced with the prospect of broken hospitality to the men that visited, Lot offered his daughters to be raped instead. He could not take back those words even though they were saved from it. Empty words and promises of Lot could lead his daughter's broken hearts astray).

The journey from your mind to your hands

Is shorter than you're thinkin'

Be careful if you think you stand

You just might be sinkin' (The boundary is evil thoughts because they can turn into actions quicker than we realise.

Lots daughters were born and brought up surrounded by wickedness. They saw their Father exalted and flattered by the wicked men that surrounded them. They experienced deep betrayal. They saw their homes and possession utterly destroyed including the men they were betrothed to. They had just lost their mum. They are most likely in a desperate situation. Their thoughts can see only one way out. Progeny through the one man in sight. It doesn't matter that he is our Father, does it? We have seen worse in Sodom.

Every justification does not stop it being wicked.

I heard some arguments that we should not be outraged since we don't understand their customs at the time. The boundaries were different.

Leviticus tells us otherwise.

Making excuses for or normalising wickedness is itself wicked.

Paul was as critical of those who sinned as those who encouraged them to do so.

Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. (Rom 1:32)

Meanwhile the song ends:

*For the Father up above is looking down in love
Oh, be careful little eyes what you see*

So :

What were the human characters doing?

Lot allowed himself to drift to a place where he got so drunk he could not remember what happened

Daughters were so conditioned in wickedness that they stepped right over God's boundaries

God – looked down in love and sadness at how this family had fallen apart

What does it mean for us?

- Accountability – seek direction and rebuke
- Rooted in truth – seek God's truth and good boundaries for living
- Encourage others – be bold in holding others to account, in love, for they may not even know how far they have strayed