"A Lot Like Me" 2 Peter 2:6-9

- One of the greatest paradoxes in the life of a Christian is "the pleasures of sin." Hebrews 11:24-25
- I understand that sin, at its primary core, is rebellion against God
- But most of the time, we don't sin because we want to shake a fist of rebellion in God's face
- Most of the time we sin because it's enjoyable to our natural desires, Romans 7:19
- If sin were like sticking a fork in an electrical outlet, it would be easier not to do it; but it comes in pleasurable forms (we want to be wooed by it)
- No one is enticed by a lover that they don't want, James 1:13-15 (Sin courts us)

Did Jesus Find it Easy Not to Sin?

- If we believe the Bible, sin was as hard on Him as it is on us, Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 2:18 (He suffered when tempted)
- I don't know what appealed to Him more
 - Lust of the flesh to satisfy what His body craved
 - Lust of the eye to own everything His eyes could see
 - Pride of life the need to keep up His image no matter the cost (cheat on tests, lie on documents, falsely represent who we are)

Jesus conquered these issues by remembering scripture when challenged; in Matthew 4, He said "It is written" 3 times

Romans 14:19; Exercising Rights (eating meat and not wearing a mask during a pandemic is a similar analogy) What's best "for peace's sake!"

Lot, On the Other Hand, is a Classic Example of Succumbing to Desires (a Lot Like Me)

- Moses, the storyteller in Genesis, contrasts Abraham and Lot
- Lot loses his father and grandfather, Genesis 11:27-32; and Abraham his uncle, takes him under his wing, and leaves with him to the country of Canaan
- Remember that Abraham, at this time, had no children and therefore must have cared deeply for his nephew (like many of us have had to do; become substitute parents: uncles, aunts, fathers, grandfathers, grandmothers, etc.)
- Genesis 13 says that Abraham and Lot had been blessed with so much that the land where they were living could no longer support all of their possessions
- Abraham suggested that they part ways, but gave Lot first choice (Abraham remembered God's providential care)

Abraham Walked By Faith and Not by Sight. Lot Walked Differently; 2 Corinthians 5:7

- Lot looked around and saw the Jordan valley, that it was well watered and <u>LOOKED LIKE</u> "THE GARDEN OF THE LORD," Genesis 13:10
- He chose to move his family there (no mention of prayer, meditation, asking for divine direction) Sight motivated him All that glitters is not gold (faith is based in substance/ evidence) Hebrews 11:1
- The Bible says that Abraham took God with him, Genesis 14:18
- How many relationships have failed because people were primarily motivated by, "what we saw" (we saw their looks, we saw what they drove, we saw where they lived, but performed no stress test, no heart catheterization)
 1 Samuel 16:7

- In Genesis 14, Lot was living in the evil city of Sodom and finds himself in some trouble
- The City of Sodom was captured by 4 kings with whom it was at war
- Uncle Abraham hears about Lot and shows his love by taking 318 men from his own household of people, and waged a war against Lot's capturers, rescuing his whole family
- Godly relatives sometimes have to go the extra mile for their own people
- Church family members may have to come to the rescue of one another (Lot got in too deep with his environment and had to be rescued, he was caught up)

- We see no more of Lot in Genesis until chapter 19, when we learn that he is sitting at the gateway of the city of Sodom (a place of prominence in those days)
- Remember that now God is planning to destroy Sodom because of its evil ways; and Abraham, being told, begins to negotiate with God to save the city because Lot lived there
- Of Course, despite the warning by angels to Lot's family to leave immediately, the angels have to force Lot, his wife, and family out of the city; and Lot loses his wife along the way
- The last we see of Lot is tragic: He is living in a cave with his 2 daughters; and while in a drunken state is seduced by them and they are impregnated
- So Lot goes from a man who, at one point in his life, had so much "stuff" that he needed more property, to a man living in a cave with 2 daughters

But the Holy Spirit Says Something in 2 Peter 2:6-8 That Genesis Doesn't Say!

In talking about God's judgements, Peter says:

"If He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what's going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued Lot, a <u>righteous</u> man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless (for that <u>righteous</u> man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his <u>righteous</u> soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)

- You see, Lot wasn't the wretched sinner that was always in trouble
- Peter says that he was a righteous man who was overcome by sin

- Lot had enjoyed the blessings of God that flowed through his association with Uncle Abraham
- He had spent many years with him and watched him first-hand
- Then came, "his choice time," when he separated from Abraham (make a choice based on what you already have learned)
- Lot decided to take his chances in the "Luscious Looking Cities of Sodom and Gomorrah!"
- Although Lot soon recognized the cities as evil, <u>he</u>
 was willing to bear it for some reason! (he knew
 what wrong looked like)

Here is the Point Where Lot's Decision is Like Ours!

- There was obviously something more that he wanted that appealed to his flesh, his eyes, or his pride
- He was willing tolerate the most despicable evil around him to have it
- I don't know what it was that he crave;, but it had to be powerful (the lust of the eyes or pride of life, maybe)
- Remember that the angelic beings had to forcibly remove he and his wife from the city, and she couldn't stand being away
- Lot was obviously a man who lived by sight and not by faith

- When given the chance to part from Abraham, he chose what looked best for himself, even if it meant he would have to live in an evil environment, which he thought he could handle (The lust of the eye was to much for him)
- At some point he allowed sin to dominate him so that he lost the ability to choose better
- Some women remain in abusive relationships because they feel it better to "look like" you are with SOMEBODY than "look like" you're with NOBODY
- The problem with Lot is that he is okay with flirting with sin rather than fleeing it

Jesus On the Other Hand, Takes the Position of Radical Spiritual Self-Mutilation!

"If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell." Matthew 5:29

- Plucking out an eye is painful and irreversible, but Jesus says that it is sometimes necessary
- There was an elder who loved to fish but he never went fishing on Wednesdays because the temptation was too strong to forsake Bible Class
- Cable and Satellite movie stations may have to be axed for one's relationship with Jesus, Matthew 16:24

Remember, Living On the Edge of Sin is Dangerous!



- The Lust of the Flesh
- The Lust of the Eyes
- The Pride of Life

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins Acts 17:30

Confess Christ Acts 8:37

Be Baptized Acts 8:38