



Week 8: Sodom and Gomorrah

God's judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah from Genesis 19 is linked to many other passages of Scripture. Paying attention to those linked passages, concepts, and issues can make Genesis 19 abundantly clear for us reading it today. First, Genesis 19 is told in the same format as the Noah and flood story of Genesis 6-9. Both stories tell the tale of God's judgment when sin runs rampant and the earth or these towns are filled with wickedness and corrupted. In each story we see a cycle of sexual immorality, violence, drunkenness, and more sexual misconduct. Mapping the story of Sodom and Gomorrah onto the pattern of the Noah story lets us clearly see the issue isn't just one thing or another, God's problem with Sodom and Gomorrah is the totality of sin and wickedness that has engulfed the entire area and the entire story. Lot should stand out to us as a righteous man who takes after Abraham and justifies Abraham's intercession for deliverance. However, Lot has been corrupted by his time in Sodom and even he falls short of righteousness. What Lot concedes to as he lives and escapes Sodom and Gomorrah becomes what his children embrace. Lot falls into and victim of the same evil he was supposed to be delivered from because he lingers over the city as he is urged to flee.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are we currently conceding to our culture? What have we decided is okay with us, when God insists on a righteousness that reflects his character? How can we follow Jesus in order to form ourselves and our children as Christ followers and not culture followers?
2. How can we listen and learn from Lot, and not linger over the things of this world? What things present you the most challenge to this kind of lingering? Who could walk along with you to help you follow Christ instead of lingering?
3. Jesus told us to seek first the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33), how can we do that in a world bent on seeking its own desires?