

**SEEK**

**Part 4 | Separating From Sodom**

January 11&12, 2014

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**GENESIS 12:1-9**

*Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan. Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.*

**2 PETER 2:7-9 NKJV**

*And delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) then the Lord knows*

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*how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.*

### **Big idea: What Is shaping & influencing your direction and decisions in your journey in life?**

“Our life, as it is today, is the full realization of decisions we made yesterday and the day before based upon information we chose to believe as “truth” and “wisdom” centered around relationship we viewed as trustworthy.”

### **What does the Bible Say About Decisions?**

#### **PROVERBS 14:11-12**

*“The house of the wicked will be destroyed, but the tents of the upright will flourish. There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.”*

#### **MATTHEW 7:13-14**

*“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”*

#### **DEUTERONOMY 30:19**

*“Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!”*

**1. THE PROMISES OF FAITH WILL NEVER BE REALIZED THROUGH THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH**

**Verse 10** *"So Lot lifted up his eyes and saw..."*

**1 JOHN 2:15-17**

*"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. For all that is in the world - the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and the pride of life - is not from the Father but from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."*

**2. OUR SOULS HEALTH ISN'T DETERMINED IN A DAY, BUT DAY BY DAY**

**2 PETER 2:8**

*"Day after day he was tormenting his righteous soul..."*

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:16**

*"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day."*

**Lot's character was demonstrated: Greed, self seeking, lust**

*"It would have ultimately cost Abraham his destiny if there wasn't a separation."*

**What relationships, sources, perspectives are you allowing to shape your beliefs of what is right and wrong, truth and error?**

- God's word or the world's morals?
- High priests of music, movie's & media?
- Friends, relatives, heroes?
- Experience, opinions, biases, offenses?

**3. THERE MUST BE "SEPARATION" TO REACH YOUR "DESTINATION"**

- Abraham and Lot had to separate
  - Abraham had to **"put distance"** in that relationship
  - He still **interceded** for Lot. He still **rescued** Lot. He would **not journey** with Lot.
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**COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS**

1. If you had to name one thing, what is shaping and influencing your BIG decisions in life?
2. Trying to view your relationships from an outside perspective, is there someone or something that you need to separate from in order to grow and keep your soul healthy?
3. Take the time to identify your destination. Once you have this in sight, it can give you a new perspective of the cost it takes to get there.
4. Discuss these topics with your group, and confide in someone what your next steps are in order to separate from "Sodom."