

SERMON GUIDE

The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 19



SERMON NOTES

One of the things many unbelievers and people who don't go to church say, "Why do Christians care so much about who I'm attracted to or want to sleep with?" Or they'll say, "Christians love to meddle into what happens in people's bedrooms." Let me start by saying that if you're not a Christian, I can understand why you would wonder why we have such strong feelings about things like homosexuality or transgender debates. I understand how you could hear our thoughts about the matter and wonder why we have such out of fashion opinions and views. Why don't we just get onboard with where the world is heading. And look, if this were something as trite as having an opinion on the cereal you eat and thinking you were choosing wrong, that would be one thing. But this isn't that. This isn't simply a difference in taste or personal preference.

As Christians, we have an entire worldview built around a few really important things:

1. God is the Creator and we are creatures made by Him and accountable to Him.
2. God has revealed His will and desires to us through a. natural law/general revelation (His creation) and b. special revelation (His Word).
3. There are great consequences, both in this life and the one to come, for not obeying our Creator.
4. Christians, as redeemed sinners, are called to live in full submission to what God has revealed and make it known to others.
5. Christians are called to love our neighbors (including lost ones and those who hate us) and it would be unloving to let them live in defiance of God without telling them (despite how much the culture says something is good).

In light of these things, Christians speak out about sexual sin, not from their personal opinions, but from God's Word. The Scriptures make clear that sex is designed and reserved from one man and one woman in a covenant of marriage. This is His design and revealed will. Anything outside that circle is sin. Now, people love to say "all sin is the same." But the Bible actually doesn't teach that. It tells us that all sin is equally sin, but not all sin in severity or punishment. So there is a difference between the

sexual sin of lust in your heart and actually committing adultery. They are both sin (and Jesus teaches that in Matthew 5), but they don't carry the same severity or consequence. Sex between a man and woman before marriage is a sin, but sex between two men or two women is a more severe sin. Why? Because it not only violates God's explicit commands forbidding it. It violates what He has revealed in nature.

God hates sexual sin. Sexual perversion is not a light thing in God's eyes. It's called an abomination, or damnable. Here are several biblical passages that highlight the severity of sexual immorality in God's eyes:

In Leviticus, God forbids that man lay with another man as with a woman. In Romans 1, Paul says one of the pieces of evidence that God handed a culture over to their sin and rejection of Him was men laid with men and women with women, each burning with passion for one another. Why is this a sign of rejecting God? Because when you reject God and you place yourself as God, you soon reject His order and design as well. We live in that kind of world today: boys claim to be girls, girls claim to be boys, sexuality is expressed in perverse ways, marriage is unvalued, children are viewed as a bother, $2+2=5$, and other forms of disorder or chaos. This reminds us that it is always either Christ or chaos. Truth or errors. God or idols. Order or disorder. These passages emphasize the seriousness with which God views sexual immorality, urging believers to avoid it and live in purity. That leads us to our passage today.

Application

1. The corruption of sin is total.

- The men of Sodom want to molest the two men (two angels) (sexual sin)
- Lot offers his daughters (family betrayal, foolishness)
- Lot's sons-in-law ignore warning (fools with no discernment, hard hearts toward God's Word)
- Lot lingers instead of leaving (values power and wealth but about to die)
- Lot's wife turns around (she disobeys the command, her standard of beauty and goodness are broken and she longs for Sodom)
- Lot's daughters deceive their father and commit incest (lack of judgment, broken moral compass)

- Sin affects every aspect of our being and lives. We need to recognize the depths of how sin can affect our thinking and feelings and actions.

2. God's mercy is a gift not a right.

- God chooses to show mercy to Lot and his household
- God keeps His promise to Abraham and that's why Lot's family receives the blessing of salvation.
- Friends, if you have tasted the gift of salvation, and your eyes have been opened to your sin and the finished work of Christ on your behalf, you should marvel. None of us deserve salvation. If you are here as a believer today, the grace of God has actively sought you out. This strips of boasting and leads us praise.

3. A life of obedience should follow the gift of salvation.

- Lot's daughters have been rescued from the destruction of Sodom. This is a gift, undeserved. Yet they turn around and sin in doing a thing that should not have been done. How is that possible?
- We still have sin habits and patterns after salvation. We still have this flesh to put to death. Sanctification is about growing in obedience and maturity. One of the marks that we truly belong to God and have been saved is obedience to Him and death to sin.
- We can't obey our way into salvation, but after we are saved, we should obey from His grace and not for it. The daughters did not respond how they should have in light of the gift given to them.
- Recognize the mercy and grace of God and turn from your sin. Confess and repent daily. Obey God in all spheres of your life.

4. God works all things according to His sovereign plan and wisdom.

- The daughters of Lot get pregnant through their deceptive actions and sin, and their children become the father of the Moabites and Ammonites.
- The Moabites probably sound familiar to you. That's because a Moabite woman named Ruth married a man named Boaz. Boaz was the father of Obed, Obed was the father of Jesse, and Jesse was the father of David, the King, and the line of the Messiah. Jesus descends from the Moabite woman named Ruth, who is ultimately the offspring of Lot and one of his daughters.

- God can take tragedy, brokenness, and things we consider vile and pointless and redeem them for His purposes in the world.
- Trust God through whatever circumstances you face. He can draw straight lines with crooked sticks. He is in the business of turning beauty from ashes.



- How was your week? What is one thing you're grateful for and one thing that challenged you?
- How did you grow in obedience to Christ over the last week?
- Where did you go to share the gospel or have a spiritual conversation with someone?
- What is a sin you have been struggling with that you need to repent of?



- **REVIEW**

- Read Genesis 19 from the sermon and then have someone else in the group read it again, preferably from a different version.
- Additional Scripture:
 - Romans 1:18-32
 - Romans 9:18
 - 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
 - 1 Corinthians 6:18-20
 - Galatians 5:19-21
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5
 - Hebrews 13:4
- What big takeaways did you have from the sermon?
 - What did this teach you about God?
 - What did this teach you about man?
 - What did this teach you about salvation?

- **REFLECT**

- Lot chose to live in Sodom despite its wickedness. What does this tell us about Lot's leadership in his family?
- Why did Lot hesitate to leave the city (Gen. 19:16)?
- What is significant about the angels bringing Lot out of the city (Gen. 19:16-17)?

- What is the significance of Lot's wife turning to salt when she looks back?
- The text seems to suggest that Lot's son-in-laws died in the destruction of the city. What does this suggest about marriage as it relates to salvation? How does this harmonize with 1 Corinthians 7:13-14?
- How do the actions of Lot's daughters affect the future of Israel?

- **RESPOND**

- Have you had any difficult conversations related to this topic? Are there conversations you are convicted about having?
- How does this passage help us know how to live faithfully in a corrupt world?
- What is a practical step you can take as a result of this sermon?

- **MEMORIZE**

- **Matthew 5:8** – *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”*



- **BUILD UP:** How will you follow Jesus this week and grow in your love and understanding of Him? We have several discipleship opportunities for you to participate in.
 - **MDWK** is a time of education and growth in order to build up the Journey Church body. We offer a handful of intentionally chosen classes that cover a broad range of topics and are taught by quality teachers from within our congregation. Classes are at 6:30p every Wednesday. Contact Morgan Cates (morgan@tjclive.com) for more information.
 - **TJC Women** seeks to equip women to be rooted in the Word of God and bold in their faith. Our events and small groups focus on letting the gospel shape all spheres of our lives. Gather is the first Saturday of every month. Contact Laura DiLeonardi (laura@tjclive.com) for more information.
 - **TJC Men** exists to build up men for the glory of God, the growth of the Kingdom, and the good of the world. The men's ministry meets on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 8:00a. Contact Morgan Cates (morgan@tjclive.com) for more information.
 - **TJC Students** is passionate to see every parent equipped, every leader developed, and every student disciplined into baptized, self-feeding, disciple making followers of Jesus who are letting the gospel shape every sphere of their lives. Our student ministry meets on Wednesday nights from 6:00p-7:30p for MDWK worship and Sunday mornings at 8:30a and 10:00a for small group. Contact Larry Davis (larry@tjclive.com) for more information.
 - **TJC Young Adults** exists to equip young adults ages 18 to 29 in becoming passionate followers of Jesus who enter their life in Christ. We do this through intentional relationships, fellowship, and worship centered around the gospel. The Fount meets Tuesdays at 7:00p. Contact Hunter Christian (hunter@tjclive.com) for more information.

- **SEND OUT:** Who in your sphere of influence needs to hear this story, your story, or the gospel?
We have several opportunities for local and overseas missions.
 - **For the City:** Serving international students at Cumberland University, serving the homeless at Compassionate Hands, supporting our local missions – Reach out to Jeff Long (jeff@tjclive.com) for more information.
 - **For the Nations:** 2025 trips to the Philippines, Turkey, Rome, Indonesia, London, and Israel are open for applications now – Reach out to Shawn Casto (shawn@tjclive.com) for more information.
- **PRAYER**
 - Pray over any request from your group members.
 - **Pray for our church staff:** Kendall Cox (Discipleship and Mobilization Ministry Assistant)
 - **Pray for our short-term teams:**
 - Central Asia Team departing on March 7, 2025
 - Southeast Asia Team departing on March 7, 2025
 - Europe Team departing on March 21, 2025
 - Southeast Asia Team #2 departing on April 25, 2025
 - **Pray for our long-term units on the field:**
 - The Wilsons
 - The Grays
 - The Starks
 - **Pray for the unreached.** Want to keep up with Unreached People Groups? Download the Unreached of the Day App <https://joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday/app>