

Remember Lot's Daughters

Genesis 19:30-38

Sooke Baptist Church

Sunday, February 12, 2023, 10am
also on YouTube & Facebook Live Stream



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Genesis 19:30-38



“Right is right, even if everyone is against it, and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it.”

William Penn

Coffee/Question:
Is this statement correct?
Why? Why not?

03:00

Let me ask a blunt question.

Was the behavior of Lot's daughters – right? wrong? or a mixture of both?



The “why” to your answer is important.

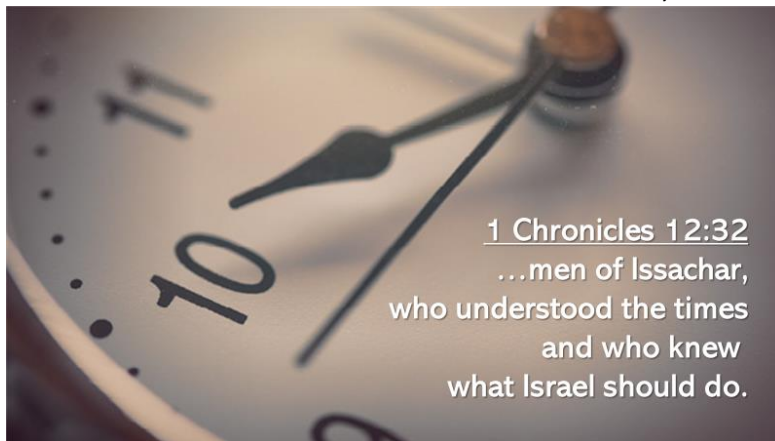
This incident that happened long ago has ramifications for us.

God included this story in order to provide guidance to his people; in order to teach us, to encourage us and also to warn us.

Before David became king many men came to help him.

1 Chronicles 12 lists by tribe and number the who came to him, armed for battle.

This is what was said of the men of Issachar, 1 Chronicles 12:32...



The reason the men of Issachar understood the times in which they lived and knew what Israel should do... is because they knew the Scripture...

... because they mediated upon the Scripture...

... because they applied the Scripture to their lives and to their culture...

... and in doing so... they brought every facet of their life under the authority of God's Word.

This is why they were wise.

But when a person, and a culture live without the triune God and without any reference to him... which is the prevailing mindset of our culture... one of the results of doing so, is that there is no objective standard for what is right.. and what is wrong.

Without God... what we are reduced to... is everyone doing what is right in their own estimation.

Let's come back to our passage.

In the case of Lot's daughters, they made this assessment about their circumstances – **look again at v.31**... **“Our father is old, and there is no man around here to give us children, as is the custom all over the earth.”**

The fiancés of Lot's daughters were dead... as were all the men of the valley plain. Their prospects for marriage... were bleak. And so... they came up with a plan based on expediency.

Look again at v.32.

Their motivation for doing what they did was – **“to preserve their family line.”** So, we must ask... in their case... was their plan wrong? In light of their circumstances... did the outcome justify their actions?

To answer that we need to step back in the story.

I remind you that Lot's two daughters had grown up in Sodom.

Two weeks ago, we read every passage in the Bible that spoke of the sin of Sodom, and then I made this slide, summarizing what the various passages said.

What was the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah?

focused on self	did wrong	over-fed
lived a lie	shed blood	lawless
haughty	arrogant	ungodly
flaunted their sin	adulterers	

refused to help the poor
did detestable, depraved and perverted things
gave themselves up to sexual immorality

Lot's two daughters, who had grown up in Sodom... had witnessed the people of Sodom making four significant exchanges... which are described in Romans 1.

Romans 1:22-23
...[humanity] exchanged
the glory of the immortal God for images
made to look like
a mortal human being
and birds and animals and reptiles.

The people of the Jordan valley plain worshipped the god Baal and Ashtoreth... as well as Chemosh... who was very similar to the god Moloch, who in later years demanded that his worshipers sacrifice their first born children to him, by throwing them into a blazing fire.

The worship of these gods impacted the souls of Lot's daughters.

Romans 1:25
They exchanged
the truth about God for a lie,
and worshiped and served
created things
rather than the Creator...

While the people of the Jordan valley plain had no Scriptures, they had the testimony of the heavens which proclaimed the glory of God, and the witness of creation's majesty, in which there was ample evidence of God's invisible qualities and divine nature.

But the people of Sodom had exchanged... the truth regarding the Creator...
... for a lie... the lie of Baal, the lie of Ashtoreth, the lie of Chemosh/Moloch.

Growing up and living in a culture that had turned from the truth to embrace a lie, impacted the souls of Lot's daughters.

Romans 1:26-27

**...the women exchanged
natural sexual relations for unnatural ones.**

**In the same way,
the men also abandoned
natural relations with women
and were inflamed with lust
for one another.**

In these two verses we are given a nuanced understanding of the word exchange – it means to abandon; to move away from; to leave.

In sexual matters the people of Sodom abandoned what God had purposed for human sexuality.

Growing up in Sodom the daughters of Lot lived in a culture that normalized the unnatural, and this impacted their souls and their own morality.

Romans 1:28, 21

**...they did not think it worthwhile to retain
the knowledge of God,
so God gave them over to a depraved mind,
so that they do what ought not to be done.**

**....their thinking became futile
and their foolish hearts were darkened.**

Lot's daughters had grown up and lived in a culture of depravity, futility and spiritual darkness.

This impacted their thinking and darkened their hearts.

They had escaped from Sodom by the mercy of God... but the depravity of Sodom which had made a deep imprint upon their souls, remained with them.

But did they know their behavior was wrong?

Look again at v.33, 35.

If they thought their behavior was not wrong, why did their plan require them to get their father "liquored up?"

In spite of all of Lot's failings... the testimony of Scripture... is that Lot believed in God... and because he did, he had been credited righteousness... as a gift from God.

Peter in his second epistle tells the reader that the sin of the people of Sodom which Lot saw on a daily basis... tormented and distressed him.

This is how we know Lot would have never gone along with his daughters' scheme, and why they knew they would have to get him drunk in order to be impregnated by him.

When it comes to the kind of father Lot was... the Scriptures are silent.

We do not know if he taught his daughters about Yahweh.

All we know is that the behavior of his two daughters... would indicate they had no moral compass.

When we say that... it is important to remind you...



... that every human being created in the image of God has been given from God the gift of a conscience... which functions as an inner compass... pointing a person to what is right... according to God.

What does... the Scripture about the conscience?

In Romans 2:15 Paul specifically spoke about the Gentiles...

Romans 2:15
**...the requirements of the law
are written on their hearts,
their consciences also bearing witness,
and their thoughts sometimes accusing them
and at other times even defending them.**

Though... the prophet Jeremiah wrote that the human heart is deceitful and beyond cure.... God's law, which he wrote on the human heart ... has not been completely erased, and each person's conscience serves as a witness to this law... and will either defend or accuse a person regarding their obedience to it.

1 Corinthians 8:7 says...

1 Corinthians 8:4,7
We know that "an idol is nothing at all in the world,"
and that "there is no God but one."
But not everyone possesses this knowledge.
Some people are still so accustomed to idols
that when they eat sacrificial food
they think of it as being sacrifice to a god,
and since their conscience is weak,
it is defiled.

This passage teaches us that the conscience can be weakened... by the worship of idols...and by things that one would treasure... other than the triune God.

If a person ignores their conscience, over time, the capacity to hear the voice of their conscience... is diminished.

This passage also tells us that the conscience can be defiled, meaning its inner witness can be corrupted, so that it no longer functions as a reliable guide.

Ephesians 4:18-19
[The Gentiles] are darkened in their understanding
and separated from the life of God
because of the ignorance that is in them
due to the hardening of their hearts.
Having lost all sensitivity,
they have given themselves over to sensuality
so as to indulge in every kind of impurity...

What is it that darkens a person's understanding?

What separates a person from the life of God?

As Romans 1 identified... those four "exchanges" that progressively harden the heart...

Within a person... who is adrift from God, ignorance grows.
The word ignorance means... a lack of knowledge or awareness.
But of what?
Of what constitutes the good life... according to God.

Many of us here, before we were found by Jesus... were like those described in this passage... we pursued sensuality... convinced that this was how the good life was to be experienced.

Many in our own culture run after experiences... they chase after things and toys... hoping to fill the void within them, by feeding their souls with pleasure,

But a heart fixated on sensuality, like an addict, will always crave more...and something new.

The pursuit of sensuality, as Ephesians 4:19 says, causes the conscience to lose sensitivity... to become... “seared” ...” as with a hot iron.” 1 Timothy 4:2

Robert Little builds on this passage and says...

A seared conscience
is one whose warning voice
has been suppressed
and perverted habitually,
so that eventually
instead of serving as a guide,
it only confirms the person
in their pursuit of sin.

Robert J. Little

The conscience is intended by God to function as an inner witness to a person's heart and mind of what God says is right and what God says is wrong.

The conscience is intended by God to serve as a compass... in tandem with the written word of God.

It is a gift to be nurtured, not ignored, nor silenced.

So what happened to the conscience of Lot's daughters... based on the scriptures we've just read?

The conscience of Lot's daughters had been weakened... probably due to sustained exposure to sinful practices that had gradually corrupted their thinking and hardened their hearts.

Over time their conscience lost its sensitivity and became seared, not just by what they saw and heard... but by the choices they themselves made.
How do we know this?

Because of what they planned... and then did with their father.
In spite of how the daughters tried to spin it to one another... their behavior was immoral and unnatural.

What connections are to make from this passage to our own lives?

I remind you of four teenage boys who lived in the time of the OT.
War had ravaged their nation and they were taken captive.

The practice of the invading nation was to select the most bright and capable youth... and enroll them in a three-year intensive training program that in addition to educating them.... thoroughly immersed them in the new culture.

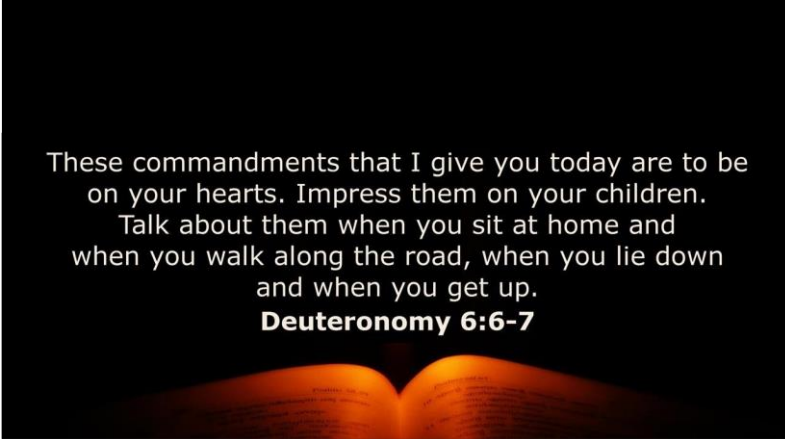
I'm speaking of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

I remind you that the training they received was saturated by occult practice – they studied and learned magic, astrology, enchantment, and divination.
But they did not forget nor abandon the faith which they had embraced... and been grounded in as children and youth.

Even when threatened with death by King Nebuchadnezzar, they would not deny their God.

Why do I mention these four?
Though we are not told anything... about the parents of these boys... there is no question that they had contributed to their sons' radical faith.

The parents of these four boys... had to have obeyed Deuteronomy 6...



These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
Deuteronomy 6:6-7

God gave these commands because he knew the great importance of shaping the soul of a child in their formative years.

The example of Daniel and his three friends serve as an encouragement to parents... of the power of the gospel, not only to save, but to keep and to sustain.

And the daughters of Lot?

They serve as a warning to all parents... of the power of culture to corrupt the soul of a young person.

Ultimately, our children will have to choose for themselves... whether or not to love and serve the Lord we follow.

But while they live at home with us... we have opportunity to teach them, to influence them, to pass on to them the faith and to help ground them in God.

Every generation of parents who follow Jesus... have had to be intentional in doing this... it doesn't just happen.

Every generation of parents who follow Jesus... have had to, not only nurture, but watch over the souls of their children.

A primary responsibility as parents... is to protect our children...

not just from hunger and thirst,

not just from illness and disease,

not just from the elements,

not just from illiteracy and ignorance,

not just from bullies and predators,

not just from themselves and the foolish decisions children can and do make,

but also, from anything that would corrupt their heart, mind and soul.

Because the presenting issue in today's passage was sexuality... then we must speak to how a follower of Jesus' is to parent and to protect their child in sexual matters, especially in light of our prevailing culture.

Since the 1960's Western culture has been experiencing a sexual revolution... and it has not been a revolution that has brought life and beauty and wholeness... but rather heartache, disillusionment and brokenness.

Brett McCracken writes, "The current ideology is the latest bad fruit of the sexual revolution, and it is being offered enticingly to scores of vulnerable young people. The message – **you create you** – is pitched as a path to renewal, but like Eden's forbidden fruit, it is a poison."

This current ideology is actually an alternative gospel. Furthermore, it is evangelistic in preaching its message to our kids, particularly in our schools.

Again, I quote Brett McCracken,
"Our kids feel the longing felt by everyone since the fall – the longing for resurrection and connection.
[This alternate gospel offers to our kids]... a new name, a new identity, a new body, and a new and loving community.
[But] this ideology's 'good news' [is a lie], for it cannot deliver [what it promises]."

Our culture claims to value tolerance.
But the irrefutable fact is... we are living in a time of increasing intolerance.

Just offer an opinion... at work, at school, on social media...which is different to the current prevailing mindset regarding sexuality and gender, and the chances of you being ostracized are very high, along with the very real possibility that you will be labeled "dangerous."

Our culture has so shifted in recent years... that the only response that the gatekeepers of the current sexual revolution tolerate – is affirmation and celebration.

There is no room for any opinion other than theirs... when it comes to the question of gender and sexuality.

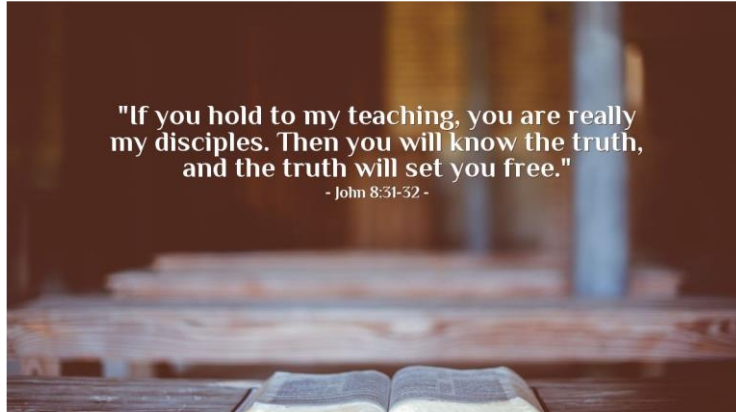
But why is it so important to equip our kids to know the truth of God?
Elizabeth Elliott explains...

The Word of God I think of as a straight edge, which show up our own crookedness. We can't really tell how crooked our thinking is until we line it up with the straight edge of Scripture.

Elizabeth Elliot

As parents we must instill in our children a great love for God and his truth. That said, we also must instill in them a deep compassion for sinners. If Jesus is known as the friend of sinners... then so should his followers be known. If Jesus was known to speak the truth with grace, so should his followers be known.

The emphasis of the gospel is that grace and truth go hand in hand.
Jesus said...



Do you see the connection between obedience and freedom?
Jesus came to free us from the bondage of sin... and to cure our soul-sickness.
But what context is freedom experienced?
In the context of obedience to Jesus' teaching.

The current sexual revolution is not leading people to freedom and to life.
Only the truth of God obeyed... can set a person free... and bring into their lives the life of God.

What truth as parents do we need to particularly impress upon our children... in regards to sexuality and gender.

That it is the triune God who created humanity.

That he made human beings, male and female.

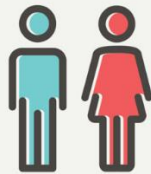
That He is the source of human identity... we are image-bearers of Him.

That human dignity and worth comes from the One whose likeness we bear.

“Our biology... [that we are created male or female]... is intentionally designed to reveal the goodness of God.” Josh Glaser and Paula Rinehart

But in what way?

Josh Glaser and Paula Rinehart explain...



**“Our maleness and femaleness
whisper to us of the gospel.”**

Parents and grandparents, we must teach our children...

... the Creator, who is Sovereign, knit them together while they were in their mother’s womb....

... he made them a boy or a girl...

... they are not a mistake...

... they are not in the wrong body....

... they have been wonderfully made.

What else do we teach our children... in regards to sexuality?

What Lot’s daughters did was not what God intended.

When God created our first parents, no sooner did Eve draw her first breath, then God presented her to Adam, and the two of them were married by God.

Why this emphasis?

The Bible teaches that sexual intimacy is a gift and a blessing, given by God to a man and a woman when they enter into a marriage covenant.

Parents we must teach our children this beautiful truth.

The Creator is wise and knows best.
He designed sex; and he knows the context in which it is life-giving.
Blessed are those who obey God... and heart-broken will be those who disobey him.

There is a Biblical phrase we need to teach our children because phrase is gospel saturated.

The Bible speaks of a husband and wife becoming “one flesh.”

What does that mean?

It does describe sexual intimacy.

But it also speaks of the melding of heart, mind and soul, of a husband and wife as they live together in covenant faithfulness over the course of their lifetime.

Here again we must impress upon our kids the beauty of God and his salvation... and the importance of covenant.

This one flesh experience points to a profound mystery.

It points to the kind of relationship the triune God purposes to have with those he calls to himself... where two who are different become one.

Our Creator God, through Jesus Christ, has provided everything for those who believe in him and who receive him... to enter into a relationship with him... similar to that of the marriage covenant.

In this covenant, made possible because of the sacrifice, death and resurrection of Jesus, the triune God pledges himself exclusively to all who come home to him.

The triune God enters into a relationship with us that cannot be severed... even by death.

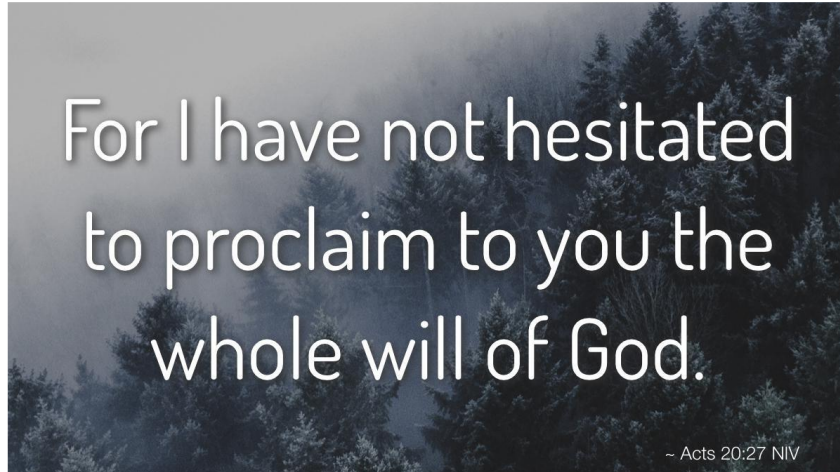
We talk about such things with our kids because we want to give them “a vision for becoming someone whose deepest identity is rooted in the strong and beautiful reality of having being created... in the image of God... male or female...”
...and through faith in Christ to being recreated in the image of Jesus Christ.

Josh Glaser and Paula Rinehart

I conclude with one last quote from Brett McCracken...

“For the growing number of casualties of the sexual revolution, [whose hearts, minds and bodies have been maimed and broken]... the church of Jesus Christ is [God’s] place of healing and restoration.
Only the gospel holds the power of true transformation.”

Parents and grandparents God entrusts to us the responsibility...



... not only to our children, but to our extended family, to our neighbors, to our work colleague, to those who, by the hand of God...intersect our lives.

Jesus alone is the hope of humanity, he is the Savior of the world.