

Stories of a Dysfunctional Family

“Sodom and Gomorrah” – Genesis 13, 18, 19 – March 29, 2009

Genesis Sermon Series Continues

STORIES OF A DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY		
A 19-Week Sermon Series on Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob from Genesis 12-36		
Date	Message Title	Scripture
March 15	The Call of Abram	Genesis 11:10-12:9
March 22	Generational Sin	Genesis 12:10-20; 20:1-18; 26:1-35
March 29	Sodom and Gomorrah	Genesis 13:1-18; 18:16-33; 19:1-38
April 5	Who is Melchizedek?	Genesis 14:1-24
April 12	The Abrahamic Covenant	Genesis 15:1-21
April 19	The Hagar “Solution”	Genesis 16:1-16; 21:8-21; 25:12-18
April 26	The Circumcision Covenant	Genesis 17:1-27
May 3	The Birth of Isaac	Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-34
May 10	God Tests Abraham	Genesis 22:1-24
May 17	The Deaths of Abraham and Sarah	Genesis 23:1-20; 25:1-11
May 24	Choosing a Mate for Isaac	Genesis 24:1-67
May 31	The Birth of Jacob and Esau	Genesis 25:19-34; 26:34-35; 36:1-43
June 7	Jacob Steals the Blessing	Genesis 27:1-40
June 14	Jacob’s Ladder	Genesis 27:41-28:22
June 21	Jacob’s Dysfunctional Family	Genesis 29:1-30:24
June 28	Jacob’s In-law Problems	Genesis 30:25-31:55
August 2	Jacob Wrestles with God	Genesis 32:1-33:20
August 9	Dinah’s Rape	Genesis 34:1-31
August 16	Israel’s Name	Genesis 35:1-29

Easter Weekend (April 11-12) – Three identical services on Saturday @ 5pm and Sunday @ 8:45 or 10:45 am. No children or youth ministry at the Saturday service.

Application #1 – Who Are You in Today’s Story and Who Do You Want to Be?

- Citizen of Sodom** – I have no relationship with God, and I am making highly immoral choices.
- Lot** – I have a relationship with God but I have allowed the things of this world to lure me into their trap.
- Lot’s Wife** – I keep looking back to the past, and I get stuck.
- Lot’s Daughter** – I will do whatever it takes to get what I want regardless of the means and regardless of the consequences.
- Abraham** – Although I have goofed up, I am walking with God, and I am praying in significant ways.

The Spiritual Condition of Sodom and Gomorrah

- Genesis 13:13 – Summary statement
- Genesis 18:32 – There are not even 10 righteous people that live in this city
- Genesis 19:4-5 – The intentions of their mob
- Genesis 19:13 – God’s verdict
- Genesis 19:24 – God’s action/judgment
- Conclude: Sodom is a bad place. If “bad company corrupts good character” (1 Corinth 15:33), then I want to stay as far away from Sodom as I can.

The Lure of Sodom to Lot

- Notice the progression of Lot into Sodom
 1. Lot begins by pitching his tent near Sodom (13:12)
 2. Next, we find Lot living in Sodom (14:12)
 3. Then, we find Lot leading Sodom (19:1)
- **Application #2** – Are there any places or activities of sin that I find myself getting progressively closer and closer and closer to? In what ways am I a “frog in a kettle”? Will I choose to get out of the kettle and flee Sodom?
- It all begins with Lot’s initial choice (13:1-13)

Contrast This With Abraham’s Choices

1. Abraham chooses to prioritize his relationship with God (13:14-18)
 - Repeatedly, the Scriptures say that Abraham pitched his tent and built an altar (12:8; 13:4,18). Whereas most people tend to build tents and pitch altars.
 - **Application #3** – Do I tend to pitch tents and build altars or to build tents and pitch altars? What steps will I take to live a lifestyle of pitching tents and building altars? What steps will I take to invest my life in and prioritize eternal things (over the temporal)?
 - I am going to build an altar by inviting Jesus Christ into my life
 - I am going to build an altar by spending daily time at the altar worshipping Him, reading His Word, and talking to Him
 - I am going to build an altar by leading my family in spiritual things
 - I am going to build an altar by developing a relationship with unchurched people, praying for them, and sharing my faith
 - I am going to build an altar by the way I spend my finances
 - Other
2. Abraham chooses to be a man of prayer (18:16-33)
 - Charles Spurgeon: “If lost sinners will not hear you speak, they cannot prevent your praying. Do they jest at your exhortations? They cannot disturb you at your prayers. Are they far away so that you cannot reach them? Your prayers can reach them. Have they declared that they will never listen to you again, nor see your face? Never mind, God has a

