

Ezek 16:49-50

Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit

When you hear of Sodom and Gomorrah what do you think of? Most think of how they were cities full of sexual sin including homosexuality. But did you know that that was not the reason God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah? As we read here in Ezekiel the real reason was because of their ***“pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.”***

Do these things sound familiar? They should, because if you look at the USA, every one of them defines it. Now don't get me wrong, I love the USA, but I hate what it has become. It is full of full of pride, so much so that it has a month devoted to celebrating it's PRIDE. It has plenty of food, lots of free time to play, and even though there are all these different programs that are suppose to help the needy, how much more could we really be doing!

But we as Christians are just as guilty here in the USA. If you think about it, how much do we really have and how much do we give to those in need? How much time do we spend planning for and doing fun stuff with our free time instead of ministering to those in need? How much idle time do we spend in front of our TV's? (Note that I say "we" which includes myself)

So what do we do? The bible makes it very clear that we are to repent and seek the Lord and His will for us. We need to stop allowing the world to dictate our lives and how we spend our time. We have this mind set that the family is the most important thing in the world. Yes they are our first ministries, but what about what the Lord wants us to do?

† ***Matt 10:37-38 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.***

† ***Mark 10:29-31 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time--houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions--and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."***

We are so concerned with giving our family the best and will work two or three jobs to do it. Then we only have a little time left each week to spend with them and no time for anything else. Do you really think this is what God had in mind for the family, or is it

possible that He had in mind for us to serve others with that free time, and teach our children to do the same thing?

The mindset we have today is look out for number one and our family, while the rest of the world starves, goes homeless, naked, and are dying and going to hell. We may not say this but aren't we really practicing it!

† **Matt 25:37-40** *Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

So yes, we should take care of our families, but we should also not allow that to consume all of our time. God has blessed us with our families and given us time to rest and have fun, but He has given us other things to do as well. If we keep hording these blessing and keeping it just for ourselves and our families, then it's possible that God may say to us *“therefore I took them away as I saw fit.”*

† **Matthew 20:28** *just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*

† **1 Corinthians 16:15-16 (NLT2)** *You know that Stephanas and his household were the first of the harvest of believers in Greece, and they are spending their lives in service to God's people. I urge you, dear brothers and sisters, to submit to them and others like them who serve with such devotion.*