

## Genesis 19:12

*Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city--take them out of this place!"*

Does it sometimes feel like God has pulled the rug out from under you? Maybe the reason is that you were standing on the wrong rug. Think of Lot, who was living in Sodom and Gomorrah, and not only living there but was a leader (*sitting in the gate of Sodom*) in the town as well.

† **Genesis 19:1a** *Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom.*

Well, these two angels show up and pretty much pulled the rug out from underneath Lot and his family. They did so because Lot and his family were living in a sinful place that God was about to destroy.

† **Genesis 19:13** *For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it.*

And even though Lot and his family knew this, they lingered (took their time) as they were getting packed to get out of that city. So the angels had to literally take them by the hand and pull them out.

† **Genesis 19:16** *And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.*

Have you ever been in that place, where you know you were in a sinful situation and still, you took your time getting out of it (Maybe even now you are lingering in your sin) and God had (or has) to literally pull the rug out from under you, or pull you out of that sinful situation?

If you think about it, the angels did not pull Lot and his family out of where they were to punish them, but rather to protect them.

If God is pulling you out of something, be it a bad relationship, bad friends you are hanging with, a job where you are compromising your Christian walk; it may not be to punish you, but to protect you. Think of Lot and his family, they had gotten so comfortable in the sinful place they lived, that they had become numb to it and the things that were going on there, so much so that Lot was willing to partake of the sins by offering his daughters to be sexually abused.

† **Genesis 19:8** *See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof.*

That can happen to us at times, where we get so used to being in that sin, that we don't realize that it has a hold of us. It could be something as subtle as the music you listen to, where you used to listen to only Christian music, then started listening to that old secular music, and have gotten so fully into secular music, that the stuff you are listening to has lyrics that are singing and glorifying the sins that Jesus died for, and you rarely listen to Christian music anymore. Or you are singing worship songs to the Lord, then the next song on your playlist sings of taking that girl home with you to have sex with or about going out and partying?

It can also happen with TV and movies, thinking it's just a little profanity, to almost nudity, but it helps tell the story. If you need nudity and sex and profanity to tell a story, then is it really a story a Christian should be listening to or watching?

So, if the Lord has pulled the rug out from underneath you, or pulled you out of a bad situation, thank Him for His protection for you and your family... and then, DON'T go back there.

† **2 Peter 2:7-9** *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 how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.*

† **Psalm 97:10** *You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.*