

## Genesis 19:14

***So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.***

I think we all know the story of Sodom and Gomorrah from the book of Genesis. Well, today's verse is from that account in the bible. If you go back and read it, it starts with the Lord talking to Abraham about destroying Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham talked with God and asking Him if there were 50 righteous people would God destroy it, and God said no, and the conversation went on down to if there were only 10 righteous people in the city, God would not destroy it. Yet as you read on, you will find that there were not even 10 righteous people that could be found.

So these two angels go down to the city and Lot greets them and invites the angels into his home. Later that night the men of the city saw fresh meat (so to speak) and wanted these angels sexually and Lot goes out and tries to tell the men of the city that they shouldn't do that and even offers the men his two daughters. (I bet he didn't get a "Worlds Best Dad" coffee cup for Fathers Day that year).

So the angels blinded the men of the city and they tell Lot to get his family, including his two sons-in-law. So Lot goes out and tells this to his sons-in-law and today's devotional verse was there response. ***But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.***

Wow, was all you could think, and in the end, the two sons-in-law ended up dying with the rest of the people in Sodom and Gomorrah. Why? That's were today's devotional verse spoke to me. You see, Lot was Abraham's nephew and the land was too big to hold them both, so Abraham offered to Lot what ever part of the land that he wanted. And Lot chose Sodom and Gomorrah, not because it reminded him of Las Vegas, but rather because the land was beautiful.

† ***Genesis 13:10 And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar.***

And as you read on, Lot started in the outskirts of Sodom and Gomorrah, and eventually made his way into the city, so much that he was sitting in the city gate, which means he was now one of the judges or a high officials.

So what had happened is that Lot, who started out as a godly man, observing and learning from his uncle Abram (Abraham) and hearing Abram talk about God and what He had told him. But as Lot crept closer and closer into the sinful city, the sinful city crept more and more into Lot, so much so that when Lot told his two sons-in-law that two angels had shown up and God was going to destroy the city ***to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.***

That's what happens when a Christian starts creeping slowing back into sin. And it doesn't happen over night, no it's a slow process. Just like they say if you put a frog into a pot of boiling water it will jump out. But if you put that same frog into a pot of room temperature water, then place it over the heat so it slowly comes to a boil, it will kill the frog, because he doesn't realize that he is in hot water (literally).

That's what was happening with Lot, so much that when I read today's devotional verse and what the two sons-in-law said, I tend to think that Lot was not considered a godly man in the city. So when he did speak of godly things, no one took him seriously, especially his two sons-in-law who should had known him better then the rest of the men in the city.

So, have you been slowly creeping back into your old lifestyle... your old sinful lifestyle, starting with maybe some of your old friends and hanging out with them. Soon you are in the bars or clubs with them, watching movies and listening to music a Christian shouldn't be watching and listening to? How far away from the Lord have you gotten already? Maybe just a little bit or maybe a whole lot, like Lot did?

If you are not as close or closer to the Lord today then you were a day, or week, or month ago, then you are backslidden, because Christians should never creep backwards into their old lifestyle, but grow and mature in the Lord.

Lot's backslidden state caused the lives of his two sons-in-law, whose lives is your backsliding affecting?

† **Jeremiah 3:22** *Return, you backsliding children, And I will heal your backslidings. Indeed we do come to You, For You are the LORD our God.*

† **Hosea 14:4** *I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from him.*