

A LESSON ON BACKSLIDING FROM THE LIFE OF LOT (13:10-13; 19:1-23)

How in the world have some people gotten out of church and so involved in the sinful things of this world? The answer to this question is this - they have backslidden on God. They came to a particular place in their life where they began to seek their own way rather than God's way. From then on it was just one downward step after another.

Let me say that a backslidden condition doesn't happen over night. A person doesn't just stop attending church, or up and run off with someone else's husband or wife, it is the result of a gradual process in which a person makes one sinful concession after another.

Then pretty soon they have gotten themselves in an awful mess and there are always consequences to pay for a life of sin.

Now I want you to look at a lesson on backsliding from what seemed to start out as insignificant matter ended up in a disgraceful disaster.

I. THE POINT WHERE LOT BEGAN TO BACKSLIDE ON GOD

Lot began to backslide on God when he made a choice that left God out of his life.

So many times people get so involved in their own personal pursuits that they begin to follow their own desires without seeking the Lord's will for their lives. The Bible says "the backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways" (Prov. 14:14)

I once knew a young man who had a good job at a bank and was climbing the ladder of success. When he had been promoted several times he was offered a higher position in another part of the country. This move meant more money and more status. And without any consideration for a church or the will of God he upped and moved with his wife and two kids. After the move there was more money and a new circle of friends but they never got located in a good Bible-preaching church. When they would come home and were asked about church they would reply by saying "we're still visiting around and haven't made up our minds yet." This practice continued for a year or so and then the problems began. While the family had more money, a bigger home, and car things began to fall apart. It was only a matter of time then before the couple separated and the family was destroyed through divorce.

As we would apply this we need to include the Lord in every thing we do. It doesn't matter whether it's considering a move or changing occupations or filling up a day with customary duties. When a person fails to do this he is headed for trouble]

II. THE PATH WHERE BACKSLIDING LED LOT

Backsliding led Lot from one sin to another and this practice led him from bad to worse.

This is the course that David's sin led him. When he had committed adultery it didn't stop there. One sin led to another sin and what started out as a lustful act ended up in the murder of a loyal soldier and servant.

This principle is something people fail to see - you can't lust sin a little and stop sinning. Sin which is not dealt with simply leads to more sin. Sin is addictive and always leads to another sin which is usually worse.

Oftentimes people imagine they're in control of the situation and they imagine "I can put the brakes on at anytime." But go and ask the drug addict or the alcoholic. Go ask those who traffic in pornography. Go ask the prostitute who started out to have a good time with a loose life style. Go ask the gambler who began to play a few hands of poker for the fun of it but now has lost a fortune. Sin begets sin. Would to God we might learn this simple lesson.

HI. THE PRICE THAT BACKSLIDING COST LOT

Lot ended up losing most of his family and doing something which brought shame and disgrace upon his whole life.

Backsliding cost the Israelites seventy years in the Babylonian captivity. Backsliding cost Israel oppression by the heathen nations in the dark days of the Judges. Backsliding cost Naomi her whole family. Backsliding cost Saul a kingdom. Backsliding cost David his son and peace in his household and kingdom.

Some may suppose there's no cost or consequences to sin and no price to pay but there's a price tag for traveling the backslider's road. Keep in mind the Bible says "there's pleasure in sin for a season." but it also says "whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap."

CONCLUSION

It may be as you consider what happened to Lot you realize you've been making some concessions which left God out or putting your own desires before what God wants you to do.

Remember what starts out small can end up a disaster. When David made the little concession of staying at home when he usually went out to battle it didn't seem like too big of a deal. I don't suppose he ever dreamed of getting into all the sinful things that this little concession led to.

I don't suppose Lot ever thought he would stoop so low as to commit incest with both of his daughters. Oh, what a shame and a disgrace upon a man's life. How terrible and disgraceful for a man to commit such a sin.

Perhaps there is a need in your own life this evening to turn around before you go any farther down the road you're going.

