

Let's Get Our Father to Drink Wine, and then Lie With Him to Preserve Our Family Line

19: 30-38

DIG: At what point did Lot lose his dignity and his moral compass? Why do you think the name of ADONAI is absent from this section?

REFLECT: What bothers you about this story: The drinking? The deception? The incest? Why? Children of alcoholics suffer from the sin and sickness of others. Lot's family may have. Where among your friends or family have you seen this to be the case? What about Lot's story, or your own, moves you to live differently? To pray?

The sin of **Sodom** ends up with the sin of **Lot** and the origin of two nations that will be the enemy of Isra'el until the **Lord** comes back. **Lot and his two daughters** didn't stay in **Zoar** too long. Since **Sodom and Gomorrah** were south of them, and **Admah and Zeboim** north of them, they were right in the middle of the devastation.³²⁷ In all likelihood, at some point **Lot** realized that the people of **Zoar** were guilty of the very same sin as those of the other four cities. As a result, **God** might still destroy **Zoar** as well. Therefore, they **settled in the mountains, for he was afraid to stay in Zoar**. So **He and his two daughters** left **Zoar** and **lived in a cave (19:30)**. **Lot** went from a rich nomad, to a city dweller, to a **cave man**. His bad choices had reduced him to poverty.

What was left of the family was still influenced by their life in **Sodom**. Earlier in **19:6-8**, **Lot** was willing to use **his two daughters** for sexual advantage; now, when **their** chance comes, **they** didn't hesitate to use **him**. **They** had mutual disrespect for each other; first **he** used them, then the roles were reversed. **One day the older daughter said to the younger, "Our father is old and his time is running out to produce sons, and there is no man around here to lie with us, as is the custom all over the earth" (19:31)**. The **daughters** have no husband and **Lot** has no wife. In his old age **Lot** emerges as a pathetic figure. By contrast, **Abraham** is blessed by **God** in his old age (**24:1**) and is able to start a second family (**25:1-3**). Furthermore, it is said of **Abraham**, but not of **Lot**, that he **died at a good old age, an old man and full of years (25:8)**.

Desperate and afraid, the **daughters**, thinking **they** were the sole survivors of their people, set out to preserve male descendants for **themselves**. Unaccustomed to walking by faith in **God** to meet **their** needs, **they** reasoned that the only possible solution was incest with **their father**. **They** knew that **he** would never willingly consent to **their** plan so **they**

decided to get **him** drunk. It is interesting to note that, despite the loss of **their** possessions, **they** had managed to bring along some wine. I guess we all have our priorities. **They** probably rationalized that this would not be as bad as what **their father** had proposed concerning **them** and the men of **Sodom**. Also, there were as yet no actual scriptural ordinances against incest, and close marriages were not uncommon; so this could not have seemed as serious a crime to **them** as it is to us today. Eventually **their** own best thinking decided it was the only thing **they** could do under the circumstances (except to trust **God**, an idea which apparently never occurred to **them** at all). Therefore, **they** proceeded to go through with **their** plan.³²⁸

They said to themselves: **Let's get our father to drink wine and then lie with him and preserve our family line through our father (19:32)**. This is situational ethics at its best. When incest becomes the greater good you know you're in trouble. So while **the daughters** were taken out of **Sodom**, **Sodom** was not taken out of **the daughters**. As with Noah, drunkenness led to immorality (**9:24**).

That night they got their father to drink wine, and the older daughter went in and lay with him. He was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up. He was so drunk he did not realize he was having sex with his own daughter. The next day the older daughter said to the younger, "Last night I lay with my father. Let's get him to drink wine again tonight, and you go in and lie with him so we can preserve our family line through our father." People can always rationalize their sin into something positive. So they got their father to drink wine that night also, and the younger daughter went and lay with him. Again he was not aware of it when she lay down or when she got up (**19:33-35**). He was figuratively and literally in the dark, for he was in a cave and it was night. To be in a cave at night, and out of **God's** will is about as dark a place as one can find.

So both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father. We are left with no response from Lot after his drunkenness. Did he eventually know about his new children and grandchildren? We do not know. Lot passes away into the darkness and oblivion that were his due. The older daughter had a son, and she named him Moab, which *sounds like the Hebrew phrase: from father. The daughter has a son from the father. He is the father of the Moabites of today.* The younger daughter also had a son, and she named him Ben-Ammi, which means *son of my people.* He is the father of the Ammonites to the very day that Moshe wrote **Genesis (19:36-38)**. The last mention of the Ammonites as a separate people was in the second century by Justin Martyr, who said they were very numerous. But sometime during the Roman period they were absorbed into Arab society and are no more.

Moab and Ammon were two nations that were east of Isra'el. Today **Moab** is northern Jordan and **Ammon** is central Jordan. They continue to be Israel's enemies to this very day. But from this point on **Lot** disappears from the biblical record; **he** had no spiritual impact. Like Balaam, King Sha'ul and Solomon, **Lot** started out well, with every possible advantage, but they all ended their lives an utter failure. There is scarcely a life in the Bible that gives each believer more teaching on what to avoid than **Lot**. **He** lost everything but **his** own soul.

Lot's biography is a series of tragic steps downward:³²⁹

- **He** left Ur and Haran with **his** uncle **Abram** to travel to an unknown location (**12:1-5**).
- When given the opportunity to choose the grazing area for **his** herds, **he** selfishly chose the fertile valley near **Sodom** (**13:1-11**).
- **He** pitched **his** tent on the outskirts of **Sodom** (**13:12-13**).
- **He** fit into the new community so well that **he** became a leader, even a judge who sat at the gate to give judgment on issues (**19:1**).
- Because **he** fit so well in the community, **the men of Sodom** did not hesitate to demand that **he** release **his** two guests for sexual purposes (**10:4-5**).
- Not wanting to give **his** guests to the sodomites, **he** offered **his** own virgin daughters instead (**19:6-8**).
- **He** tried to get **his** sons-in-law to escape the destruction of **Sodom** with **his wife** and **daughters**, but **they** took **his** warning as a big joke (**19:12-14**).
- Because **he** hesitated, **angels** had to drag **him** out of **Sodom** and told **him** to run to **the mountains** for safety (**19:16-17**).
- Continuing to compromise, **Lot** negotiated with **the angels**, seeking approval to stay closer to **Sodom** (**19:18-22**).
- **Lot** was afraid, so **he** hid in a cave with **his daughters** (**19:30**).
- **Lot's daughters** got **him** drunk and used **him** to impregnate **themselves** (**19:31-36**).
- **The sons** born of **the daughters** become **the Moabites** and **the Ammonites**, enemies of **Abraham's** descendants (**19:37:38**).

Where did **Lot** lose **his** dignity and moral compass? Not in big earthshaking decisions, but in making many small choices that left **God** out of **his** life.