

Warnings from Sodom III

Key Scriptures:

Genesis 19:1-38

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

Proverbs 22:24-25 Do not make friends with an angry person, and do not associate with a wrathful person, ²⁵ lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.

Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.

1 Kings 11:1-6 But King Solomon loved many foreign women . . . ² from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love. ³ And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. ⁴ For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David. ⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. ⁶ Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David.

Psalm 119:63 I am a companion of all who fear You, And of those who keep Your precepts.

Psalm 101:6 My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he whose walk is blameless will minister to me.

Matthew 9:12 "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.

Key Point: Your closest companions determine the quality and direction of your life.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What's a *small* decision you made that ended up having a bigger impact than you expected?

Reflect, Think, & Share: Read this week's passages, and share any observations or questions with the group.

- From Genesis 19 what details did you observe that revealed the influences of Sodom upon Lot's family?
- Why do you think Lot begged to go to Zoar?
- After Zoar was spared, why do you think they lived in a cave? What does this action suggest about the long-term consequences of compromised decisions—even after God rescues us?
- Why do you think Lot and his daughters never turned to Abraham for help?
- How do you think Lot's daughters came to the conclusion they did in 19:31-32?
- Of the passages listed to the left, which one is the most convincing to you that your closest companions determine the quality and direction of your life? Which one resonates with you most?
- Sunday's sermon distinguished between "patients" and "friends." (Matthew 9:12) How do we maintain meaningful relationships with unbelievers without allowing them to become our primary influencers?
- Who currently makes up your inner circle? In what ways are they shaping your values, decisions, and spiritual direction—positively or negatively?

Action Item: Is there a relationship, habit, or influence God may be calling you to distance yourself from for the sake of your spiritual health? What courage or support would you need to obey Him?

Prayer: Do you have any specific decisions or areas of life where you could use prayer from others asking God to guide you? If you feel comfortable, share these issues with your study group so that they can pray with you and for you.

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