



By Faith

Genesis 12-25

Matthew 10:14-15

If anyone does not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

Main Idea

In Genesis 19:30–20:18, Lot's story ends badly, while Abraham resorts to deceit again.

Together, these two stories include three insights that can help believers in our battle against sin.

Genesis 19:27-29

Early in the morning Abraham went to the place where he had stood before the LORD. ²⁸ He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and all the land of the plain, and he saw that smoke was going up from the land like the smoke of a furnace. ²⁹ So it was, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham and brought Lot out of the middle of the upheaval when he demolished the cities where Lot had lived.

Genesis 19:30-38

Lot departed from Zoar and lived in the mountains along with his two daughters, because he was afraid to live in Zoar. Instead, he and his two daughters lived in a cave. ³¹ Then the firstborn said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is no man in the land to sleep with us as is the custom of all the land. ³² Come, let’s get our father to drink wine so that we can sleep with him and preserve our father’s line.” ...

33 So they got their father to drink wine that night, and the firstborn came and slept with her father; he did not know when she lay down or when she got up.

34 The next day the firstborn said to the younger, “Look, I slept with my father last night. Let’s get him to drink wine again tonight so you can go sleep with him and we can preserve our father’s line.” **35** That night they again got their father to drink wine, and the younger went and slept with him; he did not know when she lay down or when she got up...

³⁶ So both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father. ³⁷ The firstborn gave birth to a son and named him Moab. He is the father of the Moabites of today. ³⁸ The younger also gave birth to a son, and she named him Ben-ammi. He is the father of the Ammonites of today.

Leviticus 18:6

You are not to come near any close relative for sexual intercourse; I am the LORD.

The last record of Lot's life in the Old Testament is here in Genesis 19: Afraid, living in a small, dark cave, with no possessions, save some wine and the clothes on his back; And his life covered in the humiliation of a final despicable act.

Numbers 25:1-3

While Israel was staying in the Acacia Grove, the people began to prostitute themselves with the women of Moab. ² The women invited them to the sacrifices for their gods, and the people ate and bowed in worship to their gods. ³ So Israel aligned itself with Baal of Peor, and the Lord's anger burned against Israel.

Genesis 20:2-7

From there Abraham traveled to the region of the Negev and settled between Kadesh and Shur. While he was staying in Gerar, ² Abraham said about his wife Sarah, “She is my sister.” So King Abimelech of Gerar had Sarah brought to him.

³ But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, “You are about to die because of the woman you have taken, for she is a married woman.” ...

4 Now Abimelech had not approached her, so he said, “Lord, would you destroy a nation even though it is innocent? 5 Didn’t he himself say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she herself said, ‘He is my brother.’ I did this with a clear conscience and clean hands.”

6 Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know that you did this with a clear conscience. I have also kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I have not let you touch her...”

7 Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, know that you will certainly die, you and all who are yours."

Genesis 20:11-16

Abraham replied, “I thought, ‘There is absolutely no fear of God in this place. They will kill me because of my wife.’”¹² Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife.¹³ So when God had me wander from my father’s house, I said to her: Show your loyalty to me wherever we go and say about me, ‘He’s my brother.’ ” ...

¹⁴ Then Abimelech took flocks and herds and male and female slaves, gave them to Abraham, and returned his wife Sarah to him. ¹⁵ Abimelech said, “Look, my land is before you. Settle wherever you want.” ¹⁶ And he said to Sarah, “Look, I am giving your brother one thousand pieces of silver. It is a verification of your honor to all who are with you. You are fully vindicated.”

Genesis 20:13

When God had me wander from my father's house, I said to her: Show your loyalty to me wherever we go and say about me, 'He's my brother.' ”

James 1:14

Each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire.

Repeated acts of consenting one's will to sin may produce a disposition that is inclined to that sin. Repeatedly consenting to that sin can cause my will to be prone to do it and ready to consent the next time. That is a dangerous condition for a believer's soul that we should be on guard against.

John Owen (paraphrased) from *Sin and Temptation*

Romans 1:24

God delivered them over in the desires of their hearts to sexual impurity, so that their bodies were degraded among themselves.

Jude 24

Now to him who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of his glory, without blemish and with great joy,

James 3:2

For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is mature, able also to control the whole body.

2 Peter 1:10

Therefore, brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election, because if you do these things you will never stumble.

Psalms 140:4

Protect me, LORD, from the power of the wicked.
Keep me safe from violent men who plan to make me stumble.

Galatians 5:16-17

I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want.

Genesis 20:7

...return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live.

Genesis 20:17-18

Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female slaves so that they could bear children, ¹⁸ for the LORD had completely closed all the wombs in Abimelech's household on account of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Ephesians 6:18

Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.

Psalm 141:3-4

LORD, set up a guard for my mouth; keep watch at the door of my lips.

⁴ Do not let my heart turn to any evil thing or perform wicked acts with evildoers.

John 17:15

**I am not praying that you take them out of the world
but that you protect them from the evil one.**