

**“SHALL NOT THE JUDGE OF ALL
THE EARTH DO WHAT IS JUST?”**
GENESIS CH19:1-14

ILLUSTRATION

Many of us may not know the name “**Marcus Luttrell**” who is now a retired “**United States Navy SEAL**”, who whilst serving his country was awarded the “**Navy Cross and Purple Heart**” for his actions in June 2005 against Taliban fighters during “**Operation Red Wings**” in which he was the lone survivor. In fact there is a film with the actor Mark Wahlberg called “Lone Survivor” who plays the part of “Marcus Luttrell.” In the film, Luttrell, is rescued from the Taliban by a goat herder, Mohammed Gulab! For those who may not be familiar with Mohammed Gulab: an Afghani goat herder, Gulab, took on the role of protector for a wounded Navy SEAL Luttrell against all odds. Wounded, alone and outnumbered, Navy SEAL Luttrell had little chance of survival in the hills of Afghanistan, an area controlled by the ruthless Taliban. Gulab displayed instinctual courage and humanity by rescuing the SEAL, and ensuring his safety back to his U.S. military unit. From that moment, Mr. Gulab was a marked man. Since Navy SEAL’s Luttrell’s rescue, Mr. Gulab was shot and he and his family suffered ongoing violent attacks.

There is an unanswered question for us as a congregation to answer as we walk through Ch19! The question relates to Ch18:25 “**SHALL NOT THE JUDGE OF ALL THE EARTH DO WHAT IS JUST?**” And our question is “**Can I personally trust the God of the Bible to always do what is just?**”

THE ANGELS ARRIVE! V1-3

In Genesis Ch6-8, God destroys a whole population due to their endemic evil (always occurring evil), while rescuing one righteous family, 8 in total. Here, in Ch19 the same pattern by God is repeated, but on a smaller scale!

Lot's progression to living in Sodom is well documented in Genesis, Ch13:12, Ch14:12; Ch19:1; Ch19:3; Ch19:4 + Ch19:5. And the opening verses of Ch19:1-3 mirror the opening verses of Ch18:1-8:

1. Both men greet the visitors.
2. Both men bow down to the visitors.
3. Both men are concerned for the visitors welfare.
4. Both men provide a meal!

When Lot realises that the visitors intention is to spend the night in the town square, the verse says that Lot “pressed them strongly” to stay at his, he wasn’t going to take “No” for an answer!. **Why?**

Remember Ezekiel Ch16:49? The inhabitants of Sodom are described as “she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.” And in 2nd Peter Ch2:6-7 - “**v7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked v8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard; v9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgement**” (2nd Peter Ch2:7-9). The people in that place were sinning greatly (Gen Ch13:13; Ch18:20)!

THE ANGELS ATTRACT! 4-11

Along with how great the wickedness is in the City (Ch13:13 + Ch18:20), it is important to

remember that Lot is living amongst various tribes of people, one being the "Canaanites" (Ch12:5+Ch15:210) and according to Leviticus Ch18:22, 24 + Ch20:13,23, homosexuality had become the common sexual perversion of the Canaanites) Kent Hughes, Genesis, PG-270)! We are told through v4-9, that "the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house" (v4) and wanted to "know them" translated in Hebrew the verb "to know" sometimes denotes sexual intercourse! Whether the men, young or old, homosexual or bi-sexual, their intention is clear, they want to have sexual intercourse with the two visitors, who happen to be angelic beings!

According to scholar Gerhard Von Rad "One must think of the heavenly messengers as young men in their prime, whose beauty particularly incited evil desire ... In Canaan, where civilization at that time was already old, sexual aberrations (departure from what is normal) were quite in vogue..... This was especially true of the Canaanite cult of the fertility gods Baal and Astarte, which was erotic and orgastic at times (Lev Ch18:22; 20:13-23) (Cited in Kent Hughes, Genesis, PG – 270).

Any form of sexual abuse, forced intimacy or unilateral imposition of your will upon another, is a sin and an evil act of false god worship, in the form of lust and power!

Lot responds in v8, in a shocking, cowardly and in an inexcusable way by offering to the sexually perverted men of the City, when he offers his two virgin daughters, "to do with them as you please." Lot forsakes his fatherly duty to protect his family and willingly offers them!!

Lot is rescued by the hands of the angelic beings (v10) reminiscent of Ch7:16, who strike the "out of control gang of sexually perverted men", with blindness (v11). Is our culture similar, with sex taking place outside of marriage, or sex in marriage between two men, or two women!

Is it reasonable for an evangelical Pastor to say that we live in an era of licentiousness? "Licentiousness" is a fancy word for "blatant sexual immorality"—sexual immorality with an arrogant, debauched flare (see Rom Ch13:13; 2nd Cor Ch12:21; 1st Peter Ch4:3).

We may think that such sins could never happen among God's people, but Judges Ch19 shows that they can, and did. These stories are written, not for us to self-righteously judge, Sodom, but to guard against becoming like Sodom ourselves!

Advocating sexual immorality is a heresy, a belief contrary to God's truth. It is an offence against the Lord Jesus Christ, when the practice and propagation of sexual activity outside marriage takes place! It is a denial of the Lord Jesus Christ who bought us, because He died for us to free us from the domination of sexual passion. We should glorify Him in our bodies by submitting to His pattern of sexual fulfilment. There is nothing new about free sex and we should resist it today as resolutely as the Christians of old did.

Divine Judgment is coming upon those who deny Christ in this way and it is heartless to encourage people to go about their business and live their lives as though nothing very significant were at stake. Heaven and hell hang on whether we follow Christ in righteousness or deny Him in immorality. You can be saved from judgment if you repent and trust the LORD who bought you by His blood. When it says the Lord knows how to deliver the *godly*, it doesn't mean He only delivers the *perfect*. Lot was far from perfect. If

you put your trust in Jesus Christ and press on to love what He loves, we can witness God's goodness for life to all who are watching!

THE ANGELS ANNOUNCE! V12-14

The angelic beings then reveal to Lot what is going to happen! It is never clear who exactly was crying out to the Lord against the inhabitants of Sodom (Ch18:20 + 21; Ch19:13), it may have been people living there, it could have been the earth (Gen Ch4:10), or it could have been Lot (2nd Peter Ch2:7-9), we are not clear, but whoever it is, remember that **the Hebrew word for:**

- ***“outcry” is used in Scripture to describe the cries of the oppressed and brutalized.***
- ***It is used for the cry of the oppressed widow or orphan (Ex Ch22:22-23),***
- ***the cry of the oppressed servant (Deut Ch26:6-7),***
- ***the cries of the enslaved Israelites (Ex Ch2:23, Ch3:7-9),***
- ***the cry or screams of the individual or city when attacked (Jer Ch18:22; Ch20:16; Ch25:36).***
- ***Such cries are the miserable wail of the oppressed and brutalized!***
- Kent Hughes puts it this way “Sodom and Gomorrah were terrible towns in which the inhabitants cared only for themselves while they brutalized and oppressed each other. There were no human rights. The poor and needy and defenceless were especially brutalized” (Cited in Kent Hughes, Genesis, PG 263).

Lot wants the two men who are planning to marry his daughters, who must have also been part of the sexually perverted gang of out of control men (v4), yet he wants to rescue them (v14)! But they think he is only joking!

So often when we share the Gospel, people do not take us seriously, instead they continue with their way of life with little thought or concern about what we have shared! Why? They often see the glorious Gospel of Jesus as a joke! These potential sons-in-law have:

1. Been warned by Lot, but to no avail!
2. After Lot had been divinely rescued from the invasion of the 4 kings in Ch14!
3. They had been struck by blindness that very night!
4. They had seen something of Lot's righteous life!
5. Despite being warned in their fleshly security, they laughed in the face of Lot!

So often, our people treat life as a game, without realising what is at stake! Is it heartless to preach Christ? No, because life is not a game, when in fact eternal joy in the kingdom of Christ and eternal misery in hell are at stake! I have to preach, you too also have to preach the Good News about Jesus!, because life is not a game, it is real!