

Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 14

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled:” (Matthew 5:6 KJV)

We continue in this message to study on how we hunger and thirst for righteousness from studying the life of righteous men and how they lived their lives for God.

We will study in this message the life of Lot:

“7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)” (2 Peter 2:7-8 KJV) Lot was righteous based on the following evidences:

The Lord, the day before He took Lot out from Sodom, He visited Abraham, who made a feast for the Lord and He promised him and his wife Sarah to have a child. And the time the Lord wanted to leave Abraham, He could not leave him without telling him what He intended to do with Sodom and Gomorrah because of what is going on in them of sinful things.

God wanted to tell that to Abraham because Abraham is supposed to direct his family and descendents after him with the justice and the judgment of God. ***“18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.” (Genesis 18:18-19 KJV)*** What the Lord wanted to do will be a good message that Abraham would teach his household and his descendents about the justice and the coming judgment of God.

Based on that God opened up the matter to Abraham, ***“20 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; 21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.” (Genesis 18:20-21 KJV)*** So here Abraham was aware that the Lord is going to send His judgment to Sodom and Gomorrah and He will deal with their sins. Abraham was aware that God will send His judgment on these cities and Lot his nephew will get involved with God’s judgment. Therefore when the two men with the Lord went toward Sodom, Abraham remained standing before the Lord, ***“22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.” (Genesis 18:22 KJV)***

Abraham stood before the Lord in prayer and intercession in order to ameliorate the judgment of God on these cities, and also in his mind to save Lot and his family and his belonging who were living there. ***In the same way we need to stand before the Lord in prayer and intercession for those cities who are doing evil things and for the people of God who went astray and are made bound in bad places and in bad circumstances. Our***

prayer to the Lord, is that He would take them out from such ditches of sins and save them from whatever bondages and set them free.

We need to have love, compassion and forgiveness like father Abraham on those whom we helped but they left us and went to sojourn in life in places like Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot was taken care of by Abraham, and God blessed him while he was with Abraham. When God blessed him, he and his men got strife with Abraham and his men, and Abraham told him to choose which place he wants to take, then Abraham would take the other place. Lot chose the city of Sodom. He was deceived and made a wrong choice. ***Many Christian today, they are deceived by the good outside looking of the world and they think that what they are seeing are God’s blessings and God’s well chosen things.*** Let us read what the Bible speaks about Sodom, ***“And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.” (Genesis 13:10 KJV)*** Sodom described here as *the garden of the LORD*, but is not of the Lord. Therefore many things that externally looked as God’s chosen things would prove one day as the city of Sodom. Therefore you need to be careful when you make your choices in this life.

After Lot took such decision, he received calamity while he was staying in Sodom; he was raided and taken captive, he and all what he had with him in the city on Sodom. Abraham when he heard that, he had compassion on Lot; he took his men and went out and rescued Lot and all what he had, ***“11 And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way. 12 And they took Lot, Abram’s brother’s son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed. 13 And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram. 14 And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan. 15 And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. 16 And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.” (Genesis 14:11-16 KJV)*** In spite of all that, Lot did not take heed of the lesson and He did not take a decision to leave Sodom.

Now the time had come for the Lord to judge Sodom and indeed Lot who is there will be involved with that judgment. The Scripture tells us that Abraham in v 16, ***“brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.” (Genesis 14:16 KJV)*** Abraham considered Lot now not a nephew but a brother, who is even equal to him. ***That how Abraham treated Lot and that is how God wants us to love those whom we helped and groomed, but they left us. Love is a language that can be understood by all cultures and languages, and through that language of forgiveness, the Gospel will go forward.***

Abraham when he heard that the Lord would going to throw Sodom and Gomorrah, he stood firm before the Lord in prayer and intercession on the behalf of these cities, and sure that prayer and intercession it had turned out to be on the behalf of Lot. Abraham opened his prayer as such, ***“23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also***

destroy the righteous with the wicked? 24 Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? 25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” (Genesis 18:23-25 KJV) Abraham said to the Lord in v 23, *“Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?”* So Abraham was pleading with God to save the righteous people and not to treat them as He is treating the wicked in His judgment. Abraham was expecting that there might be 50 people righteous and he was pleading with the Lord to save the city for their sake. Abraham was not aware about the spiritual status of Lot and those who are with him in Sodom. But Abraham had a clear mind that God in His judgment will do right and save the righteous, as he told God, *“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” (Genesis 18:25 KJV)* Abraham continued standing before the Lord interceding for Sodom. He was moved with compassion, forgiveness and love to the lost and love to Lot whom Abraham helped but he left him. *We need to move in the same way with love and compassion, we need to help, forgive, and pray that God will save the righteous when He will send His judgment toward the wicked.*

Abraham stood firm in His intercession before the Lord and was pleading with God earnestly to save the city for the sake of the righteous people, up to the point that if there will be a 10 people righteous that God will save the city. *God is bound with His Word, that when He will send His judgment He will save the righteous as we will see from the Scriptures the way that God save Lot from Sodom.*

While Abraham was interceding, the two men, the angels of the Lord, went and reached Sodom.

“1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; 2 And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. 3 And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.” (Genesis 19:1-3 KJV) Lot out of all the people of the city, he alone received the two angels. Lot pressed on them to enter his house and he prepared them feast to eat. So he opened his house to the men whom God had sent to the city. While they were there, the men of the city approached the house of Lot to do abomination with the two men who came to Lot. *“4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: 5 And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.” (Genesis 19:4-5 KJV)* Lot tried to deter them from doing that, but let us see how he did that, *“6 And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, 7 And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. 8 Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.” (Genesis 19:6-8 KJV)* Lot offered the men, that he will put out to them his two daughters instead of the two men.

What Lot did, spoke and offered, was something bad and not good. Righteous people should not behave as such. When Abraham prayed to God to save the righteous people and to save the city for the sake of the righteous, he would not expect that Lot will behave in such a way.

Now the question that is raised up and that needs to be answered, ‘Is Lot a righteous man?’ From what he did till now, he might not look like a righteous person. But the Scripture will give us the final answer for this question. We can find the answer clearly in the book of 2 Peter, *“6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; 7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) 9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.” (2 Peter 2:6-9 KJV)* Apostle Peter declared clearly that Lot was a righteous person when he wrote, *“And delivered just Lot”*. The meaning of just man is a righteous man. Now let us go through the Scripture to find out how Lot was transformed to a righteous person, although of what we read till now, in the story that we read in *Genesis 19*, it might not seem that he is a righteous person.

Why Lot behaved in a such way if he is a righteous person, that he wanted to offer his two daughters to be raped and for fornication? The most likely reason for that is that he was confused. Being long time living in such place as Sodom surrounded by wicked people, then he was also suppressed, and vexed of what he was hearing and of what he was seeing. Yes he was with Abraham and taught by Abraham, but now he became confused and started to do things that are not correct just because he thought it was acceptable by the people around him.

Lot rejected the idea of homosexuality, but he accepted that his two daughters to have fornication. *Many churches and Christians now a day they refused and reject the homosexuality and the homosexual marriage, but they accept fornication and immoral relationship between men and women outside the Godly marriage that God ordained in His Word, in the form dating, courting, the phenomena of boyfriend and girlfriend, adultery, live in relationship, divorce, separation and remarriage, as well as single father or single mother to be married not the father of the mother of her/his child.*

Many believers when they are deceived with wrong choices like what Lot did and lived in places like Sodom, confusion will creep into their lives and start to do sinful things, like drinking, banqueting, dating, courting, extramarital affairs, wearing non decent clothes, smoking, cheating, stealing, frauding, etc. They simply do all these things thinking that these things are correct because they are done and acceptable in the society that they are living in.

Lot was confused, oppressed and overcome by the people in the place that he was living in; the wrong choices that he had made brought him such. The men of the city pressed on Lot: *“And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the*

door.” (Genesis 19:9 KJV) Such thing to take place will oppress the righteous and force him to do more wrong. But the Lord is faithful and will not allow the righteous to continue to go in such a way. **“10 But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. 11 And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.”** (Genesis 19:10-11 KJV) The angels did not approve what Lot was about to do to offer his daughters to be abused by evil doers; therefore, the two men pulled him inside his house, and they stroke the men outside with blindness.

After what had happened, the angels confirmed that the judgment would come over the place. Therefore, the two angels hurried him to go and bring out anyone whom he has in the city, **“12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: 13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it. 14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.”** (Genesis 19:12-14 KJV) Lot had made arranged marriages and had given his two daughters to non believers. This is another sin that God judged Lot for. Some they propose that according to the Eastern culture, that espoused girls are called married, even if they are still in her father’s house. But if we read v15 we can conclude from what the angels said, **“Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here,”** that Lot had other daughters in the city with their husbands other than the two daughters that they were with him in his house that night.

God would save Lot from among the wicked people. God truly as it is written know how to deliver the Godly, **“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.”** (2 Peter 2:9 KJV) But here Lot in order for him to be saved he should be willing to loss and give up what was not in the will of God. Lot here is called to come out from his house, and he need here to loss his house and all his furniture and belongings, in addition he need to loss the marriages that he arranged for his daughters, and it could be even to loss his two daughters.

When the angels had hurried up Lot they told him the following: **“15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.”** (Genesis 18:15 KJV) They told him to take, **“thy two daughters, which are here,”** so it means he had other daughters living now with his sons in law whom he went to them and who refused to listen to his instruction. Lot truly on that day made great sacrifices and was willing to loss things in order to leave that wicked place and save his own soul. **“16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.”** (Genesis 19:16 KJV) Lot lingered and he was hesitant to leave because he needed to leave back precious things including his house, his furniture, his daughters and their families. These things the people may not be willing to leave when they are challenged by the Lord and are put to the test.

Notice that when Lot was reluctant, **the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters,** and that action was described as a mercy of God; **the LORD being merciful unto him:** Lot lost many things but that was the mercy of God. That is how God bring His Kingdom in the midst of us. When God is judging us causing us to loss certain things then that is the way that God’s Word would be fulfilled when we pray, “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10KJV)

Lot through what was taken place he was able to see the mercy of God in the midst of God’s judgment: **“17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. 18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my LORD: 19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy** (see how Lot is able to see the mercy of God in saving him from Sodom and Gomorrah, and that is a good sign of repentance and humility in response to the judgment of God), **which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life** (Lot here is appreciating that God is saving his life, and he is accepting that whatever he will be going to loss, that will work out for his salvation); **and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die: 20 Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live. 21 And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken. 22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do anything till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. 23 The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar. 24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; 25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.”** (Genesis 19:17-25 KJV) Lot was instructed to flee to the mountain, the place that he refused to dwell before as he chose to dwell in the plane. Now he is instructed again to go back there to that place. Lot prayed and asked the angel to allow him to go to the nearby city of Zoar and they allowed him, possibly because it will be a long distance that Lot needs to walk in order to reach the mountain. Therefore, Zoar was not overthrown for the sake of Lot so he can escape to it.

The prayer of Abraham the previous day for Lot helped him to escape, but Lot loss what were the consequences of his sins. Lot he not only lost that what we mentioned previously, his house, furniture, his married daughters and their houses with his sons in law, but he also loss his wife, **“26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.”** (Genesis 19:26 KJV)

“27 And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD: 28 And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace. 29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.” (Genesis 19:27-29 KJV) Abraham prayed and his prayer was effective, but he did not know how God worked out and answered his prayer. We also in the same way when we pray, when we are led by the Holy Spirit to pray to God to save and to snatch His people from the pit of sin, we may not be seeing

how God is working but we need to trust Him that He will answer our prayers and He will work on them based on Scriptures, and will save the righteous and condemn the wicked.

Lot transformed through the prayer and the intercession of Abraham and God worked out that Lot will be cleansed and delivered out from the miry clay that he was in and the sinful place and the sinful people that he was entangled with. God disciplined Lot and made him bear the consequences of his sins. Lot endured that, and became righteous man. therefore the good Lord saved his life.

“30 And Lot went up out of Zoar, and dwelt in the mountain, and his two daughters with him; for he feared to dwell in Zoar: and he dwelt in a cave, he and his two daughters.” (Genesis 19:30 KJV) Lot truly developed the fear in God, as we read here that he moved out from Zoar and went to live in the mountain, as the angel instructed him to live, away from the worldliness and from the influences of the world.

My dear and beloved: The story that we had read is painful but it was fruitful. God as He disciplined Lot, he repented and changed his life and became righteous man and was willing to give up all what he had in order to be saved and to be a follower of God in living a righteous for Him. Therefore in the same way If we want to be righteous before God, and if we want to hunger and thirst for righteousness and to be called righteous people, we should persevere to do what right and just:

- We are called today to repent of all our sins and worldliness, and lack of faithfulness toward God, toward His Word, and toward His faithful people who admonish us with the Word of God.
- We are called today to come out of all the wrong places that we had put ourselves in sin and got stangnat.
- We are called today to be willing to loss material things, houses, furnitures, money, families members, and whatever needed to be lost in order to follow God.
- We are called today to stand with God and be willing to do all what God wanting us to do.
- We are called to pray and intercede for others to come out of their sins.
- We are called to love others and invest in their lives to reach them and to disciple them.
- We are called to forgive others, and not revenge when the people trouble us and harm us, especially those whom we helped but went away from God, and to continue to pray for them to repent and to come back to God and live a righteous life before Him.
- We are called to continue to admonish the people with the Word of God and rebuke them for their idols and their worldliness whenever that deem mandatory and needed for them to be brought back to the right way of God.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death on the third day to give me eternal life.

Let us confess and renounce our sins to the Lord. Let us confess and renounce all our worldliness, our idols and the wrong plans that contradict the Word of God. Let us confess and renounce all our pride, anger, boasting, impatience, unforgiveness, jealousy, envy, lust, fighting, quarrels, and the rest of our wrong ways of life and our non willingness to follow the ways of God because of our wrong priorities and practices.

Lord I commit my life to be willing to hunger and thirst for righteousness. Lord I commit my life to leave such sins _____

Lord I commit my life to leave the following things in order to live the righteous life that you want me to live. _____.

Let us forgive those who hurt us especially those whom we served and did good to them but they rewarded us with evil.

Let us ask God to give us patience and perseverance to go and reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to snatch them and to save them from sins and to pull them out from sinful places and sinful circumstances of life.

Let us ask the Lord to save the righteous and intercede for the sinful cities and for the people of God who left the right way of God and went to wrong places and lived in sin and despondency. Let us pray and intercede for them, that the Lord shall make a way for them and snatch them out from the pits that they fell in.

Lord I ask you this day to save the righteous _____ from this world, and spare him your judgment.

Lord I ask you this day to save the righteous from this city _____, and spare him your judgment.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who had humbled themselves before you to live the righteous life that you wants them to live. Lord make away for them to come out from all temptations and the places that sin had caused them to be entangled and spare them your judgment. Lord protects them and provides all their needs. Lord fills them once again with the Holy Spirit and makes their lives testimony attractive to others so that people will believe in you and start to follow you and live according to your Word and your righteousness.

Lord I pray for us as a church to help us to go on in serving you and do your work and your will in the midst of people who are opposing the truth and living in worldliness. Lord we commit ourselves to do what is right and just in your eyes. Lord helps us to bear suffering, rejection and persecution, and fills us once again with the Holy Spirit and enables us to evangelize and to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the Word of God. Lord enable us to live a prayerful life. Lord we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

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