

Lot's Punishment & Marvellous Rescue

Genesis 14:1-24

Halifax: 5 April 2015

Introduction:

Today we continue our sermon series in Genesis.

- We have been in the part of Genesis that presents to us the life of Abraham.
- We have seen how God graciously called him out of idolatry to serve Him.
 - He promised:
 - to make him a great nation (this is the promise of a righteous kingdom)
 - to bless him (this is the promise of true happiness and holiness)
 - to make his name great (this is the promise of immortality in Christ)
 - to make him a blessing to others (this is the promise of loving, fruitful, service)
 - to bless those who bless him and curse those who curse him (this is the promise of God's judgement that will destroy Satan and our enemies and that will vindicate His people).
 - to bless all the families of the earth in him (this is the promise to bring forth the Saviour of the world through his seed and bring this salvation to all the families that were scattered at Babel).

This is the same blessing we have if we are in Jesus Christ.

- If we have faith in Him, we are Abram's seed and heirs of the same promises.
 - Abram is presented to us in scripture as an example of what it is to be a man of faith—to be a true believer. Only those who have true faith will be saved.
 - We see him walking with God—looking to the promises—and sometimes stumbling—but going on for the Lord in faithfulness by God's grace.
- Already we have seen the fruits of God's saving work in him...
 - First we saw how he heard God's call, obeyed the call to leave his homeland and go to Canaan, and how he began to build altars to worship God.
 - Then we saw how he wavered when famine came, and he left for Egypt where he tried to protect himself by withholding the truth about his wife...
 - but God was faithful to humble him and then deliver him.
 - Last week we saw how he returned to the land and generously gave his nephew the choice of the land—because their herdsman were quarrelling...
 - And how the Lord promised that He would give Abram all the land of Canaan...
 - Lot greedily took what Abram had offered him—
 - He saw the fertile land of the plains of the Jordan—near the Dead Sea—and went to settle there, pitching his tent toward the wicked city of Sodom.
 - And in our reading today, we see what happened to Lot as a result of his covetous decision.

Our scripture reading today is Genesis 14.

- Please give me your attention as I read it to you—Genesis 14, verse 1:

Genesis 14:1-24: And it came to pass in the days of Am-ra-pher king of Shinar, Arioch king of El-la-sar, Ched-or-la-o-mer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations, ² that they made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shi-nab king of Admah, Shem-e-ber king of Ze-boi-im, and the king of Be-la (that is, Zoar). ³ All these joined together in the Valley of Sid-dim (that is, the Salt Sea). ⁴ Twelve years they served Ched-or-la-o-mer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled. ⁵ In the fourteenth year Ched-or-la-o-mer and the kings that *were* with him came and attacked the Reph-a-im in Ash-te-roth Kar-na-im, the Zu-zim in Ham, the E-mim in Sha-veh Kir-i-a-tha-im, ⁶ and the Horites in their mountain of Seir, as far as El Paran, which *is* by the wilderness. ⁷ Then they turned back and came to En Mishpat (that *is*, Kadesh), and attacked all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who dwelt in Haz-e-zon Tamar. ⁸ And the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Ze-boi-im, and the king of Bela (that *is*, Zoar) went out and joined together in battle in the Valley of Sid-dim ⁹ against Ched-or-la-o-mer king of Elam, Tidal king of nations, Am-ra-pher king of Shinar, and Arioch king of El-lasar—four kings against five. ¹⁰ Now the Valley of Sid-dim *was full of* asphalt pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled; *some* fell there, and the remainder fled to the mountains. ¹¹ Then they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way. ¹² They also took Lot, Abram's brother's son who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed. ¹³ Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the

terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Esh-col and brother of Aner; and they *were* allies with Abram. ¹⁴ Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained *servants* who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵ He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Ho-bah, which *is* north of Damascus. ¹⁶ So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people. ¹⁷ And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Sha-veh (that *is*, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Ched-or-la-o-mer and the kings who *were* with him. ¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he *was* the priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰ and blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all. ²¹ Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself." ²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, ²³ that I *will take* nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that *is* yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich' — ²⁴ except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Esh-col, and Mamre; let them take their portion."

May the Lord bless the reading of His holy word.

There are three things we are going to look at from this passage...

- First, at how the LORD sometimes chastens us by delivering us over to bondage.
- Second, at how the LORD graciously delivers us from bondage and also gives us the privilege of delivering others from bondage.
- Third, at how we ought to respond when His deliverance comes.

So let's get started!

I. The Lord sometimes chastens us by delivering us over to bondage.

A. Lot is an example of a believer that needed to be chastened.

1. There was a downward progression in his life away from the Lord.
 - a. As we saw last week, he was a believer—we are told that in 2 Peter 2:8.
 - He had the privilege of being joined to Abram, his uncle, who was the firstfruits of the church—
 - Abram had the promises of God and the blessing of God and an inheritance with God and Lot was privileged to be with him.
 - This is before the scriptures were complete, so for Lot, going away from Abram was like going away from access to the scriptures, from preaching, from proper worship, from discipline, from fellowship.
 - b. But when quarrelling arose between his and Abram's herdsmen because there was not enough room for them with all of their possessions,
 - Abram would not have the quarrelling to continue and instead of driving Lot away, graciously offered him his pick of the land.
 - Lot should never have separated from his uncle—he should have pled as Ruth later did to stay with him...
 - But instead he was delighted to take the offer and lifted up his covetous eyes and saw the plains of the Jordan.
 - He did not think that he was leaving the man who had the oracles of God and the promises of God...
 - He was bedazzled by the opportunity...
 - His greed and covetousness blinded him to what was best for his soul and for his family.
 - c. He foolishly put a craving for a life of comfort and worldly ease above godliness...
 - Last week we saw that he pitched his tent toward the very wicked city of Sodom—not because it was wicked, but because it was prosperous.
 - He had lost sight of what was really important.
 - He had lost sight of heaven—of the kingdom of God—of God's blessing.
2. Guard against this spiritual apathy and indifference!
 - a. My brothers and sisters, there is no place for half measures in your service to God.
 - He has redeemed us from the world and we dare not dabble in it...
 - It is so easy to become addicted to the ease and comforts of this world that we grow cold and indifferent to God.
 - b. If you are slacking off in your study of His word—
 - in family worship

- in godly leading of your family
 - in disciplining yourself for godliness—
 - in reaching out to others to encourage them in their walk...
- c. If movies and hobbies and purchases and video games and friends are more important to you than godliness...
- if you are drinking more than you should and eating more than you should and full of lust or full of complaining...
 - You are in need of chastening!
 - You need to be struck by God so that you will wake up.
 - I fear that there are several in our congregation that are ripe for chastisement.
 - There is an indifference that has taken root in your heart.
- B. When you dabble with the world, the Lord sometimes brings you into bondage to the world to chasten you.
1. That is just what happened to Lot...
- a. There was a big bully named Ched-or-la-o-mer from the east who wanted to enjoy the fruitfulness of Sodom and the surrounding area too.
- He had a coalition with three other kings—these were not great emperors but kings of city-states that were common at this time...
- 1) And these kings had banded together and defeated the five city-states near the Salt Sea or the Dead Sea where Sodom was—probably to the south of it...
- And they were now collecting tribute from them.
 - It was a very unjust thing to do—to claim the rights to other peoples’ property—but this was a common practice...
- 2) But after twelve years of this, Sodom and Gomorrah and their allies decided that they had had quite enough of it...
- And so, as it says in verse 4, **“in the thirteenth year, they rebelled!**
 - They did not send in their tribute money!
- 3) This, of course, was quite unacceptable to Ched-or-la-o-mer and his gang,
- So they sent out their armies to punish their rebellious vassals.
 - Ched-or-la-o-mer and his coalition prove to be quite unstoppable!
 - They sweep through their course ravaging one city after another—taking out even those men of large stature like the Re-pha-im as they move along.
- b. But the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah and Admah and Ze-boi-im and Be-la are ready for them...
- 1) They know they are coming and so instead of waiting until they attack, they go out to meet them in the place of their choosing—
- They face them off in Valley of Sid-dim where there are many tar pits—an area that they were familiar with...

- 2) But as it turns out, Ched-or-la-o-mer and his gang have no problem defeating them,
 - and it is the five kings of the Jordan valley are the ones who end up falling into the tar pits and fleeing to the mountains.
- c. And look! We are told that Lot himself is taken off by these enemy kings along with all his possessions!
 - Verse 12 says: **They also took Lot, Abram’s brother’s son who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.**
 - 1) There was nothing Lot could do.
 - He could not escape.
 - He was completely under the power of these enemies.
 - What he had greedily cast his eyes on was the same thing that they had cast their eyes on—so they took it and they took Lot also!
 - 2) This is just what Lot needed from the LORD!
 - The very things that he had greedily sought had now been the occasion of his downfall—he was in bondage.
 - He had dabbled with the world and now he was in bondage to the world.
- 2. The LORD often does this for His people when they dabble in the world.
 - a. They think they can tinker around with a compromised walk—indulge in a little covetousness, a little lust, a little relaxation in their walk with God...
 - And soon they find themselves in bondage—to addictions, to money making, to spending money, to pornography, to idleness, to video games, to whatever...
 - And they are helpless—they cannot escape—they are in bondage just as much as Lot was.
 - Their lives are empty and worthless when they might have been serving the Lord and living in the enjoyment of knowing Him.
 - b. God arranges things in the course of history like this for His people...
 - That’s right, He shapes history around His people’s lives to work in their lives—
 - to chasten them when they need it and to encourage them when they need that...
 - He has all sorts of purposes in the way He shapes history and the way He raises up kings and puts down kings...
 - But He works all things for the good of His people—
 - And in Lot’s case, it was to chasten him—to wake him up to his spiritual lethargy that he might repent and return to joyful service to the Lord.
 - This bondage was just what he needed!
 - c. And let me tell you that whatever you have in your life...
 - It is just what you need...God has ordered it and it is just what you need.

- Do not be impatient about it.
- If you are in bondage, it is to humble you...
 - It may be to chasten you for particular sins or it may be to test you and prepare you for further service,
 - but is it always what is good for you.
- If you have been sluggish in your walk with God—neglecting His word, neglecting prayer, neglecting worship...
 - Then you need to wake up—God is chastening you to wake you up so that you can get on with serving Him!
- Do not take it lightly if God Almighty chastens you!
 - It is a great kindness on His part to get your attention!
 - If you ignore His chastisement, it will only get worse for you!
 - He is rescuing you from apostasy.
 - The mark of a true believer is that he repents when God chastens him.

TRANS> We are not told whether Lot repented, but I expect he at least cried out to the LORD.

II. God graciously recuses His servants from their bondage and often He uses us to deliver each other!

A. Here we see the man of faith, Abram, as God’s merciful deliverer. He is a picture of Christ.

1. First, the Lord brings it about that Abram hears of what has happened to his nephew Lot...

a. Verse 13 tells us how this came about...

- **Gen 14:13: Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they were allies with Abram.**
- Abram was dwelling in peace...
 - He had found some friends in Canaan with whom he had made an alliance.
 - And he was there, serving the Lord, when this news that Lot had been carried off was brought to him!

b. Now you see what Abram does...as soon as he learns of this!

- He immediately does what he can to rescue his nephew!
- He arms 318 of his servants—
 - men that he had trained, men that were born in his house (not those recently acquired in Egypt) and he goes to save Lot.

2. What a beautiful picture of Christ...what a beautiful example of how we should live for the sake of others!

a. Here we see God-wrought love

- 1) As soon as Abram hears that his nephew is in need, he immediately takes action—just as our Lord Jesus did...

- He leaves the comfort of his place and goes to war for the one he loves.
 - Jesus left the glory of heaven—He inconvenienced Himself without a thought because of His great love with which He loved us.
- 2) This love is all the more remarkable when we remember how Lot had treated his uncle...
- He had allowed his servants to quarrel with Abram's and then he had gladly separated from him to take the best of the land for himself.
 - Instead of disposing of his property or dealing with the quarrelling, he had seized what was offered to him of his uncle Abram's inheritance.
 - Yet, now he is in trouble and we see that Abram and his servants bear no grudges...
 - There is no hesitation at all—he immediately goes to action for his dear nephew.
 - You know how Jesus, even while we were yet sinners, died for us!
 - We had treated Him so badly—it was our sin that had brought us into bondage to sin and death and Satan and Hell...
 - Yet, there are no hard feelings with Jesus—He still goes to the cross...
 - Even for some of those who put them there—He goes on praying “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!”
 - What love this is—not considering what we deserve, but looking at what we need!
- But not only do we see God-wrought love...
- b. Here we also see God-wrought courage
- 1) Abram does not stop to consider his enemy and calculate to see if he can conquer him or not...
 - He does not hesitate in thinking that there are four kings who have just defeated a coalition of five kings...though he knows this...
 - He goes with what he has—318 men trained in his household, and it appears, with a few of his friends.
 - 2) This course is the product of faith and love...
 - He is in God's hands, and whether with few or with many, he knows that the victory is with the Lord...
 - He goes in faith, trusting the outcome to God.
 - 3) What courage our LORD Jesus showed—knowing that He must bear the curse to deliver us from bondage...
 - fully knowing that He would be cut off from the Father for a time...
 - but with sweat mingled with blood, he cried out, “if it be possible, let this cup pass from me, nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done!”
 - What courage, what love, what faith!
 - He went, knowing that His Father's promise to deliver His people was sure—He went for the joy that was set before Him.

- 4) When you trust in God's promises, it makes you as bold as a lion...
 - You know that nothing can truly harm you in your service to the Lord.
 - You launch out to fulfill His call, even if it puts you in great danger and brings great suffering upon you...
 - You know that you are in God's hands.

➤ So there is God-wrought love and God-wrought courage...

c. And here we also see God-wrought wisdom and success

1) Abram goes with faith in God, but true faith is not devoid of wisdom...

- Some people get the faulty idea that true faith behaves foolishly because it leaves it to God,
 - But true faith rather looks to God for wisdom,
- Abram, by the grace of God, devises a very good strategy...
 - Look at verse 15...
 - **Gen 14:15: He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.**
 - Ched-or-la-o-mer never expected this!
 - No doubt, they were celebrating their victory in the ways that such men do—immorality, gluttony, boasting, drunkenness...
 - And that made them all the more vulnerable...
 - And Abram comes at them by night from two directions.
 - All they can do is run!

➤ The Lord gave Abram this wisdom,

2) And now He also gives him success in the execution of his plan

- So many things could have gone wrong, but God was in it and it was His pleasure to give Abram success...
- Verse 16 declares the final outcome...
 - **Gen 14:16: So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.**
- So there is a complete restoration!

B. Let us endeavour to be God's instruments of deliverance to those who are in bondage.

1. It is only God who does the actual deliverance, but He uses us.

- It is our privilege to be His instruments of delivering others—He deliberately puts people in our path that need to be delivered so we can act...
 - so we can act in love, and in courageous faith and wisdom as Abram did.
 - You are an instrument in the master's hand!
 - Do not let grudges or fear or foolishness stop you—move out in loving faith for the Lord with whatever forces you have to help.

2. I am confident that there are people in your path that need deliverance.

- The Lord tells you what to do...

- In Galatians 6:1, it says:
 - **Ga 6:1: Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.**
- Don't make excuses—go in love and in faith...
 - Perhaps it is your own children who need to be rescued...
 - Perhaps you have not been dealing with what needs to be dealt with in their lives—right in your own home!
 - You have left them in bondage to sin...
 - What? Don't you care about them?
 - Don't you have a Saviour who promises to help you?
 - What is it that you need to deal with?
 - Who is it that God has put in your path to rescue?
 - If there is no one, keep your eyes open for the next opportunity.

TRANS> So you see—it is true that God chastens His people by bringing them into terrible bondage—but it is also true that He delights in delivering them.

III. And when the deliverance comes...what should you do then?

A. Give thanks!

1. Whether you are the delivered or the deliverer, you should be thankful...
 - a. The king of Sodom and his buddies along with Lot were the ones who had been delivered...
 - How full of gratitude they ought to have been as the recipients of God's grace.
 - Not so say, "What a dreadful ordeal that was"—and be bitter about it,
 - but rather to say with humility:
 - "God has delivered me and I did not even deserve it."
 - b. And Abram, in this case, was the one who had done the delivering...
 - It was for him to rejoice in this deliverance as well!
 - When you have the joy of delivering someone from bondage, it is not the time to start boasting,
 - It is the time to return thanks to God—the deliverance was brought about by Him...
 - Yes, you may have had love and courage and wisdom—but these were all God-given and all the glory belongs to God.
 - Sadly, there are times when we are greatly used of the Lord,
 - But then instead of using it as an occasion to glorify Him we turn it into an occasion for getting glory to ourselves!
 - He will not give His glory to another...

- You put yourself at odds with Him when you claim the glory for yourself that belongs to Him.

TRANS> And look—the Lord makes it easy for everyone to give thanks...

- He sends a faithful priest to lead the praise—

2. Melchizedek leads the way in this thanksgiving.

a. You have the king of Sodom and you have Abram and Lot and all these ones that Abram has delivered...and they have just come together here...

- but then out of nowhere there is this Melchizedek whom we have not heard of...
 - And we told in Hebrews that that is the point—He comes out of nowhere.
 - He is called the King of Salem, which is perhaps Jerusalem—here in the land of Canaan...
 - but He seems to be unknown until now.
- He is a remarkable figure, deliberately presented as a type of Christ.
 - He is without father and mother and He is not only a king, but also a priest—and a true priest of the true God.
 - Hebrews 7 tells us that Melchizedek is greater than Abram because He blesses Abram—and the lesser is blessed by the greater...
 - And He is also greater because Abram pays tithes to Him.
- Though not many are of this opinion, I am inclined to think that He is a pre-incarnate Christ...
 - Just as we have later the angel of the LORD who comes to visit Abram...
 - And just as we later have the angel of the LORD who meets Joshua...
 - And in the temple, we are told that Isaiah saw the LORD high and lifted up and the NT speaks of it as seeing Jesus...
 - And Daniel saw Him—so there is nothing so extraordinary about Him appearing in the form of a man before His incarnation...
 - But whatever the case might be, Melchizedek is a type of Christ, and that is really all we need to know about Him.

b. He comes to make sure that God gets the glory for what has happened.

- His agenda in this whole situation is to acknowledge God publicly for the deliverance He has accomplished through Abram so that everyone will know that it was the Lord.
 - You know it can be that after a great deliverance, it is sometimes the case that nobody initiates giving thanks to God...
 - Everyone is standing around talking about the deliverance and what happened, but nobody leads the way to say, “We should give thanks to God”
 - But that is what Melchizedek does.

- 1) He highlights the fact that it was God Most High who delivered.
 - He comes with bread and wine to have a celebratory feast!
 - Bread and water were standard fare at this time, but wine was what you would have a royal feast—and that is what this was.
 - It was a time to celebrate the victory of God.
 - 2) Melchizedek declares that Abram is a man who is blessed of God...
 - That is way he has been successful—that is the only reason.
 - Look at what he says in verse 19:
 - **Gen 14:19-20: And he blessed him and said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.”**
 - 3) This is brilliant!
 - This notable defeat has occurred and Melchizedek is there to remind all the people what the true source of the victory is.
 - It is that God has blessed this man...
 - El Elyon, the Most High God, the possessor of heaven and earth!
- c. Abram follows Melchizedek’s lead and gives him a tithe.
- 1) By doing this, he joins Melchizedek in acknowledging God as the one who is responsible for the victory!
 - By giving a tenth of the spoils he had taken, he provides for this praise to God and shows that all of the spoils belong to God.
 - The tithe was the standard from ancient times, long before Moses.
 - Those who are thankful to God and recognise that everything they have is from Him, give a tithe to Him.
 - It is still that way today—a tithe is 10%.
 - Those who trust in themselves withhold their tithes.
 - So you see, Abram is agreeing with this priest that God is to be thanked.
 - 2) This is what Jesus leads us to do each week for the deliverance God gave Him for us.
 - When He was on the cross, crying out for deliverance, He promised the Father as soon as the Father had accepted His offering,
 - That He would declare His name to His brethren and sing praises in the midst of the assembly—in the church.
 - In Hebrews 2:12, He promises, **“saying: ‘I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.’”**
 - Jesus Himself gathers us together and acknowledges that His victory as our redeemer by which He delivered us from bondage to sin, Satan, death, and Hell is all from God.

- He is our priest and He is our king, and He leads us in giving thanks to God for the deliverance we have been given.

TRANS> So you see that both the ones who are delivered as well as the one God used to deliver them is to join in thanksgiving to God!

- You ought to do this if you were the deliver or the one who was delivered...
 - But now I want to look at another thing you ought to do if you were the one that was delivered from bondage.

B. If you were the one delivered from bondage, you should most certainly repent!

1. Take the Lord's chastening seriously lest a worst thing come upon you.
 - a. That's what Jesus said to the man He healed beside the pool of Bethesda.
 - That man's infirmity was chastisement for his sin—he had been in bondage for 38 years—and Christ delivered him...
 - and Jesus comes and says to him, “repent, lest a worse thing come upon you.”
 - It should make us very tender when God has delivered us from chastisement—
 - It should make us reverent and sober and ready to serve Him.
 - It should make us see how foolish we were to depart from Him...
 - It should make us zealous to forsake the sin that brought us under bondage...
 - b. If you return to your folly, you are like the dog who returns to his vomit.
 - You are just going right back into bondage again...
 - God sought to correct you and then He delivered you and now you are going right back to the same ways...
 - What kind of folly is that?
 - Are you even a child of God at all?
 - Lot was, but it was hard to tell that!
 - Often it is an indication that a person is an unbeliever when they return to their vomit—to the pollutions from which God had delivered them.
2. And look at the foolish King of Sodom...
 - a. The arrangement here is very instructive and brilliant...
 - We are first told that King of Sodom comes out to meet Abram when Abram returns victoriously with all the goods and people he has rescued...
 - But before the King of Sodom even has a chance to speak, Melchizedek comes forward with His feast of thanksgiving...
 - This was a mercy to both Lot and the King of Sodom and to Abram that they ought to look to God and acknowledge Him...
 - We have seen the Abram took the cue...
 - Melchizedek is the guy who comes into the bunch before anything has been said or done and say, “We should thank God.”
 - It was the duty of everyone else to say, “Indeed we should.”

- b. But the King of Sodom does not take the cue...
 - He comes, looking to barter—not with gratitude, but looking to see what he can get out of this situation...
 - After this wonderful acknowledgement of God as the author of the victory and of God as the possessor of heaven and earth,
 - this ungodly king is as covetous as ever.
 - He has learned nothing.
 - He says to Abram,
 - **Gen 14:21: Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself.”**
 - According to the customs of the day, Abram was entitled to everything—
 - but this fellow does not want to lose his revenue from the service of the people...
 - He begins to barter, beginning, as barterers often do, with an absurd offer in hopes that he can at least get something after Abram talks him down.
 - c. But to his great surprise (and delight I suppose), he finds that Abram does not want the blessing of Sodom.
 - Abram had just been reminded that he has the blessing of the Most High God, so Abram has no need for the blessing of Sodom.
 - Abram responds, therefore, as shown in verses 22-24:
 - **Gen 14:22-24: But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, ²³ that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich’ —²⁴ except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.”**
 - Like Melchizedek, Abram wants everyone to know that the blessing he has is from God.
 - This would have been inexplicable to the king of Sodom!
 - How could this man pass up on these riches?
 - Was he just stupid?
 - The king of Sodom would have been much better off if he had stopped to find out what Abram had that he did not understand,
 - but the king of Sodom—with all this opportunity to learn of God—goes on his way to return to live in the same wickedness as before...
 - And soon he will find that those ominous words...
 - **sin no more lest a worse thing come upon you—**
 - will be the reality of his miserable demise.
3. And what about Lot the believer?

- a. Like a fool, there is no indication that he learns anything from all this.
 - He too returns to Sodom to live as he did before...
 - not in total debauchery—Peter tells us that his righteous soul was vexed as he lived in the ungodliness that was there...
 - but he himself continues to live with his eyes on the treasures of Sodom that his uncle has just patently rejected.
- b. Lot does not return to the Lord at this time.
 - Even though he has been chastened and even though he had been delivered from that chastisement to start anew...
 - And the result is that a worse thing befalls him as well...
 - He loses his family—he becomes the father of the wicked and ungodly Moabites and the Ammonites.
 - He loses his wife and he loses his possessions when Sodom is destroyed.
- c. This is one of those crossroads in life that you come to when you have a marvellous opportunity to go in an entirely different direction...
 - Lot's life had just been entirely disrupted—he had had a narrow escape.
 - It was a great time to make the changes that he needed to make.
 - Lot saw clearly what his uncle was living for—the blessing of God rather than the treasures of Sodom...
 - But Lot fancied that he might have both.
 - He would be a dabbler—with one foot in the world and with one foot in God's kingdom.

Conclusion:

And what about you who have heard this sermon?

- Are you ready to live the rest of your life in gratitude to God for His salvation in Christ—for His blessing and deliverance in Him?
 - Or are you just going to go on with some sickly half-hearted devotion that will bring you nothing but misery?
 - Or perhaps you are even on the pathway to fire and brimstone like the king of Sodom.
- Following Jesus to glory is much better!
 - Isn't that obvious?
 - Come and join Him in giving thanks to the LORD for the deliverance that He has accomplished for us—
 - You need not continue in bondage to sin, to the world, the flesh, to death, to the devil, to Hell...
 - Christ has been received and in Him we are set free to live—to live abundantly—to live for the glory of God.