

O Lord, Do not let Me Forget What You Did at Sodom

Genesis 19:23-38

Halifax: 20 September 2015

Introduction:

In our Genesis sermon series, we have been looking at the example of Sodom for several weeks now.

- First, in Genesis 18, we saw how God spoke to Abraham about the wickedness of Sodom and His plans to destroy it...
- Then two weeks ago in Genesis 19, we looked at the vileness of Sodom—at how God had allowed them to go their own way without much restraint,
 - much as He did with the world before the flood; and how they had become extremely wicked, even to the point that they were prepared to gang rape decent men who came to spend the night in their city and would not be dissuaded.
 - We saw that like Lot, we ought to be vexed and grieved by Sodom’s wickedness.
- But then last week, we looked at how, even though we may be grieved by Sodom, as Lot was, there is also a certain attraction—Sodom appeals to our flesh...
 - The idea of going all out and letting nothing stop us from getting what we want can seem desirable.
 - I warned you about forming attachments to Sodom as Lot and his family had done.
- And now this week, we are going to look at what God did to Sodom—at the destruction He brought upon them because of their sin.
 - Remember what sin is—
 - It all began with the rejection of God as our God in the Garden—with a refusal to serve Him and obey Him as God.
 - At first, there was still a great deal of restraint, but as the generations go by, sin grows to greater and greater heights as we follow our own will...
 - Even though God restrains us somewhat, there is a hardening that occurs.
 - Yet, at the same time, the LORD immediately came to us—to the whole human race in Adam as soon as we fell—with the promise of deliverance in Christ...
 - He came with a way to return to God as our God through His mercy and power.
 - He promised this to Adam and Eve—but we see that as the years go by, most of their posterity did not come to the LORD for this salvation...
 - Instead they slid deeper and deeper into sin until they became exceedingly wicked and forgot the gospel so that God sent the flood to destroy them all...
 - Only Noah and his household were spared—
 - By God’s grace, they had embraced God’s salvation.
 - But upon the rest of the world, God revealed His great displeasure with sin in the great flood.
 - With Sodom we have the same kind of thing...only it is just on a region.
 - The five cities of the plain of which Sodom was the principal one, were given great prosperity and wealth.

- God did little to restrain their sin, but left them to go more and more into their own selfish ways until they became exceedingly wicked.
 - Then He destroyed them with fire and brimstone!
 - And from then on Sodom is used in the scriptures as a model of how wicked men who reject the gospel become hardened in their sin, and of God destroys them.
- Sodom and its ruin is clearly something God wants us to pay attention to...even though it is not a pleasant subject...
 - Not only do we have a lengthy chapter in Genesis about its destruction...
 - But this incident is brought up 20 times after Genesis 19 as an example of wickedness and the judgment of God—
 - That is not just a count of how many times the word Sodom is mentioned—that is an account of how many times a passage of scripture brings Sodom up as an example...
 - Six prophets of Old Testament and six in the New use it in the scriptures that they wrote...

So clearly, this is something that God wants His people to pay attention to.

- That is why I am spending so much time on this chapter.
 - We have seen the vileness of Sodom...and how we ought to be grieved by such vileness when we see it...
 - We have seen the danger of forming improper attachments to Sodom...
 - And today we will look at the dreadful judgment that comes upon Sodom.
 - The Lord has been pleased to reveal this to us as His people in the scriptures so that we will be warned by it...
 - We are to tremble at His judgments and not to put them far from our minds as we are so inclined to do.

So let's get underway by proceeding with our scripture reading.

- Today we will read Genesis 19:23-38.
- As we pick up here, Lot has just been rescued from Sodom by angels before its destruction falls and brought safely to Zoar...
- Give attention now as I read to you from God's holy word beginning in Genesis 19:23.

Gen 19:23-38: The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. ²⁴ Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. ²⁵ So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. ²⁶ But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. ²⁷ And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. ²⁸ Then he looked toward Sodom and

Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like 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 which Lot had dwelt. ³⁰ Then Lot went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountains, and his two daughters were with him; for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar. And he and his two daughters dwelt

in a cave. ³¹ Now the firstborn said to the younger, “Our father *is* old, and *there is* no man on the earth to come in to us as is the custom of all the earth. ³² Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father.” ³³ So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. ³⁴ It happened on the next day that the firstborn said to the younger, “Indeed I lay with my father last night; let us make

him drink wine tonight also, and you go in *and* lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father.” ³⁵ Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. ³⁶ Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. ³⁷ The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he *is* the father of the Moabites to this day. ³⁸ And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he *is* the father of the people of Ammon to this day.

May the LORD add His blessing to the reading of His holy Word.

I. First I want you to see upon whom God’s wrath falls.

- A. It is clearly directed against the people of Sodom because of their wickedness.
1. This is expressly stated by the angels of God in verse 13 when they say to Lot:
 - **Gen 19:13:** “We will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it.”
 - a. God had told Abraham in Genesis 18 that the wickedness of the place had come up before Him, and that He had come down with a delegation to see if it was so.
 - Of course the LORD already knows all things, but He involves angels as His agents, and they had brought grievous reports of Sodom to Him.
 - b. And of course the first 11 verses show us how great the wickedness of Sodom had become...
 - I will remind you again that their wickedness was seen...
 - in their demands to gang rape the men who visited them...
 - in the fact that all including the young and old joined in this quest...
 - in that they refused to be restrained or even compromise (Lord Heart must be obeyed—my lust must be satisfied at all costs)
 - in that they turned on their neighbour Lot when he tried to restrain them...
 - in that they resorted to violence against him to get what they wanted...
 - in that even their being struck with blindness did not put fear in them or cause them to stop trying to gain the object of their desire!
 - With Sodom, you can see where rejecting God leads—but...
 2. You must remember that all people who reject God’s salvation are under God’s wrath and curse as Sodom was (even before their sin has reached this degree).
 - a. Jesus makes this very clear when He says,
 - **Joh 3:36:** He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

- You see from this that it is not just those who become as wicked as Sodom that are under the wrath of God...
 - His wrath is already upon all who do not have His salvation.
 - Sodom serves as an example of what is in each one of us—what we are all destined to become if God’s restraint is taken away.
 - The poison of rebellion against God is in us all, and it will lead us to become just as vile as the people of Sodom.
 - Certainly, many never reach such levels of wickedness in this life, but the potential is there for all of us.
 - And God’s wrath is already upon us for rejecting Him as our God.
- b. Someone will say, “But what about those who have never heard of God’s way of salvation in Jesus?”
 - How can they believe in Him if they have not heard of Him?
 - How could they even know that there was salvation?
 - Well listen carefully and I will explain...
 - God presented to Adam and Eve that He had a way of salvation by which fallen sinners could return to Him as their God.
 - He presented this right after the fall when He promised to put enmity in the woman’s seed against Satan...
 - It was a promise to break our allegiance with the Devil and return us to His service...
 - And He promised the Saviour as an individual seed of the woman who would come and have His heel bruised but who would fatally bruise the head of the serpent of old who is called Satan.
 - This was the promise of deliverance through Jesus Christ.
 - God even appointed sacrifices at this time to show how He would atone for us and to keep the promise alive.
 - And I tell you that every group of people, anywhere in the world, who does not have hope in this promised salvation has at some point rejected it.
 - The people up until the time of the flood chose to continue in their rebellion instead of looking to God’s promise of salvation...
 - They did not want to come to God for salvation.
 - Only Noah and his family were found looking to the LORD for salvation.
 - So everything started over with only Noah’s family...
 - But then as they repopulated the earth, men turned from God’s salvation in remarkably speedy way...
 - They held on to certain twisted versions of the gospel—but they rejected and perverted it...exchanging the truth for idols.
 - That is what Sodom and Gomorrah’s fathers had done all along the way...
 - And that is what the fathers of every people group that does not know the gospel has done.

- God singled out Abraham and his posterity as a people in whom He restored the promise of salvation and kept it alive.
 - And even in doing that, it was an uphill battle to keep them from utterly apostatising...and turning to idols.
 - That is what people are like in their wickedness...
 - They want to go on without God and His salvation.
- c. And that is why all who are not trusting God for His promised salvation in any age are already under His wrath and curse.
- Paul refers to the Ephesians who had recently come to Christ as those who were before the children of wrath...the sons of disobedience...
 - He says that they were without hope and without God in the world, being cut off from God's promises.
 - In Ephesians 5:6, he says concerning all who have not come to Jesus, whether they have heard of Him or not,
 - **Eph 5:6: Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.**
 - The Apostle John likewise says,
 - **1 Jo 5:19: We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.**
 - Anyone without Jesus Christ is in league with Satan and so is under the wrath of God and is going to be destroyed as Sodom was.
 - This is very clear in God's word.
 - This is why we need to pay attention to what God did to Sodom—because the destruction of Sodom will come upon all who are without Christ!
- B. But you need to see something else here—that God's wrath is also upon those who are only outwardly connected to Christ and not connected by true saving faith.
1. This was the case with Lot's wife.
 - a. She was sanctified by Lot—simply by being in a believing household...
 - She heard the warnings and she was brought out of the city with Lot and their daughters by the hands of the angels.
 - But her affections were still in Sodom...
 - Not just in the way that believers are somewhat attached to Sodom, but Lot's wife had no desire for God's salvation...
 - I mean of course she would have liked to avoid the fire and the brimstone—but she did not want to be restored to God.
 - She did not have godly enmity in her heart for Sodom—for way of rebellion and rejection of God...
 - She had not turned to the LORD for deliverance from her sin—to be washed from her guilt and her corruption.

- b. And you see what became of her in verse 26: **But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.**
 - In Luke 17, Jesus tells us to remember what happened to her—as an example of what happens to those who never really repent but are only outwardly disciples!
 - She had the appearance of being in Christ, but in fact, she was yet in her sin and unbelief.
 - God separated her out from His people in the time of His judgment just as He will do at the last day...
 - Jesus speaks of this problem often.
 - For example, in the parable of the dragnet—
 - The net sweeps up both false and true sons into the church...but the false sons are separated out for destruction at the end of the age...
 - In Matthew 13:47-50 Jesus says: **“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”**
2. The Bible warns about this all the time!
- a. In Psalm 50, the false professor is addressed with these words from God:
 - **ver. 16-17: What right have you to declare My statutes, or take My covenant in your mouth, seeing you hate instruction and cast My words behind you?**
 - Here is a person who has taken God’s covenant in their mouth, professing to belong to Christ, but who in fact hates the gospel!
 - b. Is it not for this reason that Moses and Isaiah and Ezekiel and Jesus refer to God’s disobedient covenant people as Sodom and Gomorrah?
 - They address them as Isaiah does in 1:10: **“You rulers of Sodom and you people of Gomorrah!”**
 - He is speaking to the circumcised who profess to be God’s people!
 - Such people today may go along with God’s people all their lives and be given a Christian funeral,
 - but the day of judgment will reveal what they were!
 - You do not need to fear if you are truly looking to Christ to wash away your corruption and your guilt...
 - but if you are just hanging out with God’s people and have no real interest in His salvation, know that you will perish with Sodom...
 - Jesus, in fact, says that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you. (Mt 11:24).

TRANS> So you see then that whatever you may profess and whoever you may be associated with,

- if you are outside of Jesus Christ, you are under God’s wrath and curse just like Sodom—and you will by no means escape God’s judgment.

C. And I might mention as well that even Lot, who is a righteous man, does not entirely escape from God's chastisement. His attachment to Sodom costs him dearly.

1. God delivers him from the punishment of Sodom to be sure—it is a very great deliverance that we will focus on next week—Lord willing...

- The righteous will never be destroyed with the wicked...

- There is a huge difference...

- But God does chasten Lot severely for his sinful attachment to Sodom!

2. He moved there because of the prosperity of the place!

- He already had tremendous riches—so much that there was not room for him to stay with Abraham—which is what he should have done—

- God was giving His word to Abraham and blessing him and Lot should have sold all that he had rather than depart from him...

- but he moved to Sodom where he could enjoy his riches...

- But what do we see of him at the end of this chapter?

- We see him fleeing from the city in haste—his riches destroyed...

- The man who went to Sodom to prosper, is at the end of this chapter dwelling in a cave with his two daughters!

- What a pitiful sight this little company is!

- And not only that, but he has lost his wife and his daughters' husbands to Sodom...

- And now his daughters make him drunk and conceive sons from him by incest—sons who become wicked nations not unlike Sodom.

- It is a very sad ending for the man who began with the privilege to walk with Abraham!

3. Let this be a warning that even if we are truly in Christ, we will suffer great loss if we attach ourselves to Sodom and slack off in the word and prayer.

- Rather than building a family that could be with God for eternity—rather than influencing people toward godliness as Ruth the Moabitess did,

- Lot loses it all, yet he himself is saved as through fire.

- It is much better to lay up treasures in heaven my friends!

- God will not be mocked—what you sow, you will also reap.

TRANS> So you see how God's wrath and displeasure falls on these three kinds of people...

- Upon Lot who is spared from eternal wrath but loses his family...

- Upon Lot's wife, who though outwardly in the covenant perishes with Sodom...

- And of course upon Sodom itself...

II. Now let us look at some of the characteristics of God's wrath as it is here displayed.

A. First I want you to see that it is very carefully measured...

1. God is not unjust.

- As He told Abraham, He has heard reports and He investigates the reports and He judges according to what He has found.
 - On the day of judgment,
 - He will carefully separate out His people from Sodom as He separated out Lot so that the righteous are not punished with the wicked...
 - And He will also carefully separate out the people of Sodom from His people as He separated out Lot's wife for destruction.
2. Not only that, but the judgment He executes will be just and fitting.
- As those who are among the people that have universally sinned against God, we are in no position to determine the justice of God's judgments,
 - They may seem overly severe to us.
 - But in the day of judgment, the LORD will expose the true nature of sin in a way that will convince all of their ungodly deeds...
 - All those prophets who have seen visions of God's holiness were overwhelmed, not so much with the severity of His judgments,
 - but with their own wickedness that made them terrified of the judgment they realised they deserved...
 - We are blinded by custom and depravity, but when the light shines all will be clear and men will want to hide under the rocks because of their sin.
 - If we are wise, we will not question the justice of God's judgments in our present condition when we read of them,
 - but we will accept the fact that what is revealed is what we fully deserve.
 - How can we possibly deny it when we see what sin did to the Son of God when the sins of His people were laid upon Him!
 - He was God's Son—and what anguish, what torment was His!
 - If such be done to Him, what will be done to those who reject His salvation?

TRANS> Well, right here in the example of Sodom's destruction we are given a picture of what judgment will be like for all who are not truly in Christ...

B. You see from our text that it is very severe, very final, and very terrifying!

1. Like every other day in Sodom, the sun had arisen...
 - perhaps Lot's sons were already jesting that the night had passed and nothing had come of the destruction their father-in-law had warned them about...
 - But you see what happened in verse 24...
 - **Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens.**
 - Notice the emphasis that this was an act of God—we have already seen that it was a measured judgment for their wickedness...
 - It says that He rained the brimstone and fire and it says that it came from Him out of the heavens...
 - This is one of the most difficult things to accept about judgment; that it is from God Himself.

- It is the expression of His holy wrath against our sin!
2. And what a terrifying thing this is...
- It is difficult to imagine what terror this must have struck upon the inhabitants of the plain—the shrieks and cries of anguish...
 - Brimstone is sulphur—it was perhaps in a molten state as it fell.
 - The horror of it shows us how much God hates sin—how truly detestable the sin that we take so lightly really is!
 - This is the very picture that is used in the New Testament to describe God’s eternal judgment...
 - Revelation 21:8 tells us that those outside of Christ will: **have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**
 - In Revelation 20:10, it also tells us that the wicked will be **tormented day and night forever and ever** in this way.
 - Such torment is unfathomable.
 - Is it any wonder that the prophets who see such destruction plead with men to flee from the wrath to come when they see visions of this?
3. What a final thing this is—once it comes!
- And perhaps the worst thing about it was that once it began, there was no turning back now for the people of Sodom...
 - Lot’s sons-in-law knew what this was about—
 - that very morning, they might have easily escaped with Lot.
 - But they hardened their hearts and convinced themselves that there was no danger...
 - They hardened their consciences as people do again and again when God’s word is heard—
 - They vainly assured themselves that judgment would not come—they ate and they drank and they married and they ignored the Lord.
 - They hardened their hearts as all of the people of Sodom had done as they stepped deeper and deeper into sin over the generations...
 - I remember doing that before I came to Christ...
 - Hardening myself—again and again—when I ought to have turned to the LORD.
 - I remember doing things I knew were not right and then finding them easier to do the second and the third time—and then adding something else...
 - Where would I be now if the LORD had not had mercy on me?
 - And where would I be on the day of judgment?
 - In the place of no turning back where Sodom was on that dreadful morning!
 - Paul echoes the finality of God’s judgment in 1 Thess 5:3 when he says:

- **1Th 5:3: For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.**
4. And you see how complete this destruction is...
- There is no comfort, nothing to take with them, nothing to hold on to!
 - Notice the use of the word *all* in verse 25...
 - **Gen 19:25: So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.**
 - All of their wealth, all of their acquaintances are utterly destroyed.
 - Even the land itself.
 - Peter reminds us in 2 Peter 3:10:
 - **the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.**

TRANS> Truly it is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

- He is a consuming eternal fire to His enemies, and once His judgment falls, there is no turning back.

III. My friends, as hard as it may to be hear about it, the LORD has revealed this great destruction of Sodom to you for your benefit!

A. He has revealed it all through scripture that you might not sleep in the face of such danger!

1. To sleep is to go on as if there is no danger—ignoring the reality of the situation!
 - It is to make no preparations in the face of danger.
 - It is to delude yourself and to progressively harden yourself that there is no coming judgment—at least not one so severe as God says it will be!
2. But consider! We are members of the human race, and we have rejected our creator!
 - You should know without being told that this is worthy of great condemnation!
 - You should know all the more because God has revealed His severe displeasure with us for this...
 - Such judgement destroyed the whole earth except Noah in the great flood.
 - Such judgement destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone.
 - The LORD tells us that such judgement will come at the end of the age.
 - Why should we not believe Him?

B. Secondly, God has told us of this judgment so that we might flee from the wrath to come!

1. Give heed to the angels call here in Genesis 19 to Lot and his family to *Escape!*
 - You can see the urgent call in v.17: **“Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.”**
 - And again in verse 22...**Hurry, escape!**
 - You absolutely do not want to be around when God’s judgment falls!

2. This urgent warning resounds all through the Bible...
 - John the Baptist said, **“Flee from the wrath to come.”**
 - In Luke 21:36, Jesus said, **“Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”**
 - In Acts 3:19, Peter says, **“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”**
 - In Revelation 3:3, Jesus says, **“Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.”**

TRANS> We could go on and on with these urgent pleas—the main thing is that we respond to them! Now let’s look at the third reason God tells you of His judgment...

C. Third, you are told of it that you might come to the Lord Jesus and hold firmly to Him for salvation.

1. It is by coming to Him that we are able to escape the wrath of God.
 - It is for you **to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.**
2. Paul tells us in Romans 5:8-10: **But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**
 - It is only by trusting in Him that you can have full forgiveness of your sin and escape the coming wrath.

D. Fourth, we are told of God’s wrath that we might give earnest warnings to others before it is too late for them...

- In 2 Cor 5:10-11, Paul says, **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.**
 - When we see the coming judgment, it ought to make us do all that we can to get through to others...
 - I don’t mean that we should be obnoxious, but we should pray and reach out and look for opportunity to point others to Christ, to bring them to hear the word...to do whatever we can.
 - And of course, you ought to tell your children!
 - It is shocking that there are Christian parents who do not think it is worth their time to bring the word to their children each day.

E. Fifth, you are told of the coming judgment that you might hold loosely to the things of this world...

1. We saw last week how the men of Sodom so loved the good things of this life that they were willing to set aside God's commandments to pursue whatever their hearts desired...
 - If we believe in the coming judgment, we would rather jettison the good things of this life now than depart from doing the will of God!
 2. Peter puts it very well in his second epistle when he says,
 - **2 Peter 3:10-12: But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God.**
 - How foolish it is to hang on tightly to what will be destroyed when hanging on to it will destroy you!
- F. Sixth, you are told of God's terrible judgments that you might praise Him for His holiness and justice as it is displayed in those judgments...
- When you see the destruction of Sodom, it ought to lead you to praise God!
 - When Jesus returns to the judge the world, we are told that it is then that His glory will be seen—that He will be admired by all who love Him.
 - We will see how He hates sin!
 - We will see how pure and holy He is!
 - We will see His glorious wrath poured out on His enemies...
 - In Revelation 19, we have the call to praise God when His judgements are revealed: **After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her."** Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"
- G. And finally, you are told of God's terrible judgments that you might have a better sense of what our Lord Jesus bore for us on the cross!
- The dreadful wrath that is displayed upon Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone poured out is the same wrath that Jesus bore for us!
 - He took it all so that we might be pardoned...
 - Isaiah 53 says: **He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.**

- What a Saviour we have!
 - How can we measure the love of the one who came to take such dreadful torture for our sake—
 - even though we fully deserved to bear that torment and even though we have done nothing to make us worthy of the least mercy!
 - What love is this that caused the LORD of glory to bear the curse for my soul?
 - What fell on Sodom is what would have fallen on us...but Jesus came and sheltered us so that it all fell upon Him!
 - We can never repay Him!
 - We can never even come close...
 - But He tells us to lay down our lives for Him by laying down our lives for one another.
 - Let us hate the sin that brought our redeemer to such grief!
 - Let us hate the sin that is worthy of such judgment...
 - Let us hate the sin that God so hates...
 - And let us give all to Jesus Christ.