

INFLUENCES

Genesis 19:14-36, 1 Peter 2:7-8

By Raymond White

Lot was a righteous man living in a wicked city.

***1 Peter 2:7** [God] 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.*

Suddenly, his life fell apart — not because he was unrighteous but because his friends and family had seen too much evil and had been influenced by it. Lot was rich with employees (**Genesis 13:7** *herdsmen of Lot's cattle*). When Lot moved to Sodom, they came too. When he left Sodom, they stayed, and died. Evil is addicting. It trapped Lot's friends and his family.

***Genesis 19:14** And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in laws, 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.*

When Lot left Sodom, most of his family — his married daughters and their husbands and their children (Lot's grandchildren) — did not leave with him. They stayed, and died.

Who did leave with Lot? Three people only: his wife and two unmarried daughters. But not even all of them made it all the way out.

***Genesis 19:26** But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.*

Who can blame her for looking back? Her daughters were dying, her grandchildren were dying. And so the wrong decision of some family members drew another family member to her death. Lot's wife had good reason to look back, but good reason or not, looking back killed her.

Then, finally, Lot's two young daughters, virgins (**Genesis 19:8**), raised in the best home in Sodom, all that he had left in the world, also succumbed to the influence of Sodom.

***Genesis 19:33** And they made their father drink wine that night: and the firstborn went in, and lay with her father; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. :35 And they made their father drink wine that night also [second night], and the younger arose, and lay with him; and he perceived not when she lay down, nor when she arose. :36 Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father.*

Where did they learn to do such a thing, these two young virgin girls? In Sodom, of course. They heard evil from their friends, just as their father had heard (**1 Peter 2:8** *seeing and hearing*). They heard it at school, they saw it on television or whatever their local entertainment was in Sodom. They were engulfed by it, till it seemed not so wrong at all.

Lot thought he could keep the influences of Sodom out of his home. He was wrong.

Wouldn't it have been better if they had not gone to Sodom at all? We can't escape the influences of this world, but the next time your kids watch television, or see a movie, or go to a party believing they are immune to surrounding influences, think a bit about Lot and his family.