

September 24th, 2017
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: The Days of Noah
Sermon #5 Title: Sodom and Tomorrow pt. 2
Sermon #5 Text: (Ezekiel 16:48-50)

This morning we return briefly to our original text in the gospel of Luke where Jesus told us that we had better know and understand our Biblical history in particular pertaining to the Days of Lot.

- Now Biblically speaking, the days of Lot are a lesson and a message to both those who are saved, as well as those who are not!

- For those who are saved, we learn about the days of Lot because culturally speaking, the culture of the city of Sodom and Gomorrah, will be the culture of humanity when the Lord calls us to His side.

Luke 17:28-30 – “Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.”

- For those who are lost, it was one time in history that the Lord gave us a live demonstration of what hell is . . . and that it is to come . . .

2 verses of scripture

2 Peter 2:6 – “And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

Jude 1:7 – “Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

In other words, what happened at Sodom and Gomorrah is simple, the Lord reached down scooped up a bucket full of hell, and dumped it on the city.

*Note – Now all of that being said, the scriptures hold up the story of Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah as examples both for the saved to discern the times, and for the lost to see their judgment.

- And so we look . . .

Ezekiel 16:48-50 – “As I live, saith the Lord GOD, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters. Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.”

*Note – Now last week we covered the first two things on the Lord’s list of last straws. – These were the final things that came to the end of the patience of the Lord.

#1 – Their Foolish Morale – to the society of Sodom they were an Unjudgeable people, they were an unsparing people, and they were an unrelenting people. – Their pride was their pride, they were proud that they were proud, and anyone who said anything else would face the consequences.

#2 – Their Fulfilled Materialism – they had filled their banks and their barns . . . they rolled around in their abundance with wealthy living, but in doing so were living wasted lives.

*Note – Now those were the first two things in the Lord’s list of last straws that caused Him to say, “therefore I took them away.”

- This week, we pick up in the middle of the verse, where we left off last week, and look at the last two things that the Lord listed for us.

#1 – Their Foolish Morale - #2 Their Fulfilled Materialism

#3 – Their Fraudulent Mercy – vs 49 – “neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.”

*Note – The very first thing that you can see in that charge is that whether they liked it or not, in the eyes of the Lord God, Sodom and Gomorrah had a Moral, Spiritual Obligation toward those who were Physically Poor, and Circumstantially needy.

- Make no mistake about it, the Lord has laid a divine obligation upon those who have, to help those who have not.

- There was an unexplained expectation from the Lord, for the poor and needy to be a concern to Sodom and Gomorrah.

Proverbs 21:13 – “Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.”

Deuteronomy 15:11 – the Lord would tell the descendant of Abraham, that helping the poor was not an option for them to think about, it was a direct command for them to eagerly obey.

- “For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.”

Jesus reiterated that for us in Matthew 5:42 – “Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.”

Just a cursory count of cross-references of the scriptures that directly dealing with being to the poor and needy finds at least 24 passages.

Giving to the poor and needy will be a category of judgment at the judgment of nations . . .

Matthew 25:34-40 – “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

*Note – Now we said all of that to say this – the Lord expects the people of the plenty to strengthen the hand of the people with very little . . . and that moral sense did not exist in the everyday society of Sodom.

- But in that condemnation take note again of the charge – “neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy”

- Now when you read this, there are TWO expectations from the Lord . . . 1.) To Strengthen the Hand – 2.) To Supply the Need

A. Strengthen the Hand –

1.) Khazaq – Yawd

a.) Khazaq – to increase, to strengthen

b.) Yawd – ‘hand’ or “ability.”

*Note – This is the idea of teaching men to fish, rather than handing them fish.

- Those who KNEW how to prosper, did NOTHING to help others Know how to Prosper!

- Those who Knew how to gain and grow, would not pass that knowledge on to those who did not have it.

*Note – The problem wasn’t that the poor and needy, WOULDN’T pull their share in Sodom, the problem was that those who COULD help others help themselves, Wouldn’t.

- Look back at what Jesus said in Luke 17:28

- “they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded...”

- There was trading, building, engineering, constructing, selling, and prospering . . . For those who knew how to do that . . . Or for those who were “high on the Social Register”, and possibly registrations had ceased.

(Those on the “inside” were on the “inside” and those on the “outside” were on the “outside” and there was no room to strengthen the ability of others to gain as well.)

In any economic gap between financial “classes” of people – there are TWO dynamics. – When those who WANT to Work, and support themselves are met together with those WHO WANT to Help them, help themselves, then good things happen, and that’s first step in “strengthening the hand.”

When you have those who DON’T Want to Work, and those who are Content to Keep it that way, by just putting fish on the table, both sides are guilty of sin and evil.

- One likes keeping the other on the dole, and the other likes just being spoon fed.

- In Sodom, you had NO Hand-strengthening going on! – You had no society in which everybody was willing to help everybody, know how to prosper on their own.

B. Supply the Need – “the poor and needy”

1.) - Whatever we know about these people, we do not know about the work ethic of these people. – However since this was a judgment of the Lord, there must have been people in this group that “would have” prospered on their own, if they “could have” prospered on their own.

- There was an element of their society that had bona fide needs, and it was not in their society to meet those legitimate needs.

- There was no sense of mercy, compassion, empathy or sympathy within the general tone of the cities.

*Note – Now Jesus said, that when the Lord returns, that the society on earth, will be as the society of Sodom – a general tone of deafness to the needs and possibilities for those willing to work.

- It will be a merciless society.

The Lord had listed, their Foolish Morale, their Fulfilled Materialism, their Failing Mercy, and now He comes to the last thing on the list . . .

#4 – Their Fleshly Mockery – “they were haughty, and committed abomination before me.”

*Note – It is here that the Lord places the period. It was this, in which the Lord put an end to their rebellion, because their rebellion had reached its zenith.

A. Their Pompous Attitude

1.) “they were haughty”

2.) their abomination was “before me”

*Note – Regardless of what some people think, there is a difference in people who sin. There are some who sin, and are embarrassed, ashamed, and sense their guilt before God, and desperately wish it wasn’t so . . .

- Then on the fullness and farthest end of rebellion, there are those greatest joy is to SPIT in the Face of God, and hope He’s watching.

- Sodom was a society that Hoped the Hebrew God was watching their revelry – that hoped the God of Abraham, the Creator God, and the God of Lot . . . was watching them defy Him, deny Him, and denigrate Him, and everything about who He was.

- They had declared their Moral and Spiritual Independence from God, and wanted Him to know it!

This was the attitude of an obscene gesture to the face of God.

*Note – Probably one of the clearest parallel’s of their “haughtiness before God” was when the Roman Guards, and the Pharisees taunted our Lord and Savior at the cross. It was defiance with a smile on their face.

- but that wasn’t the last thing . . .

B. Their Perverted Abomination – “committed abomination before me”

1.) Abomination in the Hebrew is something that is Morally Disgusting, Reprehensible

- This was their behavior in the eyes of the Lord.

2.) Jude 1:7 gives us the summary – “Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

- In the days of Noah – it appeared that man had a “Sexual revolution” in that they were merely adding wives upon wives, with no sense of moral fidelity.

- In the days of Lot – those societies had a Homosexual Revolution, with no regard for the design, desire, or directions from the Lord about the flesh we live in.

*Note – Now listen closely and hear what the condemnation was, and what it was not . . . the condemnation was not that the people in those societies struggled with all sorts of temptations of the flesh . . . hear the condemnation – they had “given themselves over to fornication and going after strange flesh.”

- They had Embraced, Applauded, and Admired, what the Lord called men to repent of, and run from!

Romans 1:21-32 – the Apostle Paul describes what happens once the Lord God ceases to “strive with a nation.” He is describing both the “descent of man” as well as a nation the Lord no longer calls to come in repentance.

“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,
And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

Now while Paul did not name Sodom and Gomorrah in that passage, he didn't have too. Because what is true of that passage, was lived out by Sodom and Gomorrah . . . and we are to look and Learn!

Conclusion:

- Now none of the things that we have mentioned are “spiritual disciplines” or serves as “soul food” – but what we have looked at are the plain facts. What we have seen is a matter of History, a matter of the Present, and a matter of the Future, and the Lord tells us for our benefit, for our warning, so that those who are saved, can focus their lives on Jesus. So those who are lost, can see what's coming, and respond in repentance.