

Devotional Thoughts

Genesis 19:14

"So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking."

I remember growing up with the story of Paul Revere riding through the New England countryside heralding the message that the British were coming. In the version I was told he rode from town to town warning the people who responded by preparing themselves for battle. Lot, like Paul Revere was given a warning. His came by the hand of two angelic messengers explaining that the Lord was coming to judge. When Lot began to broadcast the message those closest to him responded not with preparation but with laughter thinking that he must be joking. I have always been stunned by that, Lot lived in such a way that no one would believe that he was truly a follower of God.

We too have been given a message to declare to the world. It is a message that if heeded will result souls being delivered from eternal judgment into eternal life. It is the message of salvation through faith in the work of Christ on the cross. Each one of us has been commissioned by the Lord and given unique opportunities to share Christ with others. Sadly some of us live in such a way that when we open our mouths to talk of Christ our behaviors make others think we must be kidding. If our speech is filled with coarse jesting, off color jokes and sexual innuendo or if we spend more time at the bar than we do at Bible study our witness will be weakened. Living a godly life is an essential part of being an effective witness. Paul exhorted the Ephesians to "Walk worthy of the calling we have been called to."

I recently spoke at a funeral for a man whose family at our church had been ministering to. They had been praying for him, inviting him to church, visiting him at his home and showing the love of Christ to him. When I stood behind the pulpit it was so easy to share Christ with his family because they had seen the love of Christ in the witness of others.

Let's not be like Lot whose witness was completely tarnished by his living. Instead let's be the light of the world that would lead others to faith in Christ.

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