

How to Lose Your Children

INTRODUCTION

- A. Illustration about the preachers plucking out the hairs on the tail of a dog, Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations, #3672.
- B. So many children have trouble because a father never leads them to Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Six hundred teenagers found in New England's prisons gave these facts as to why they were there:
 - a. Six out often had fathers who drank to excess.
 - b. Three out of four were permitted by parents to come and go as they pleased.
 - c. Seven out of ten had homes where no group or family activities were enjoyed.
 - d. And for all of them, there was no church attendance.
 - 2. There has been careful research into the history of one criminal family known as the Jukes. A total of 1,200 descendants have been traced of this prolific family tree.
 - a. Some 400 of these were physically self-wrecked.
 - b. 310 were professional paupers.
 - c. 130 were convicted criminals.
 - d. 60 were habitual thieves and pick-pockets.
 - e. 7 were murderers.
 - f. Only 20 ever learned a trade, and of these half of them owed it to prison discipline.
- C. This morning, we want to study the case of a man who lost his children — Lot.
 - 1. There really isn't much known about Lot's children, yet what we know is far from complimentary.
 - a. They married men who did not believe Lot when he told them Sodom was about to be destroyed (Gen. 19:14).
 - b. They gave Lot enough wine to drink so that he would father children with them while he was drunk (Gen. 19:30).
 - c. They gave birth to the fathers of the Moabite and Ammonite people, enemies of Israel (Gen. 19:37-38).
 - 2. One must wonder, "Where did Lot go wrong? What did he do that caused his girls to turn out this way?"
 - 3. This morning, we want to examine that question.

LOT WAS EXTREMELY SELFISH, Gen. 13; 10-11

- A. When strife arose between Abraham and Lot's herdsmen, Lot chose for himself the best land.
 - 1. Abraham told Lot to choose which way he would go and that he (Abraham) would go the other direction.
 - 2. Lot saw how beautifully watered the plain of Jordan was, so he chose all the plain of Jordan for himself.
- B. From an economic standpoint, that was the best decision Lot could make, but that selfish decision, putting his own desires above those of Abraham, cost Lot dearly.
 - 1. During the rebellion of the kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, and their allies, Lot was held hostage and Abraham had to rescue him (Gen. 14:11-12).
 - 2. When Sodom was destroyed, Lot's home and possessions were destroyed, his sons-in-law refused to flee and died, his wife turned into a pillar of salt.
 - 3. After the destruction of Sodom, his daughters turned to immorality to have children.
 - 4. All of this occurred because Lot was selfish and put his own interests above those of Abraham.
- C. Although it's pure conjecture, I wonder if Lot wasn't the kind of father who put his own interests above

those of his children. We see in Gen. 13 just how selfish Lot could be.

1. Was he the father who would rather go golfing than stay home and play with his children?
 2. Was he the father who, when he came home from work, was too tired to do anything but plop himself on the couch, put his feet up, and watch TV?
 3. Was he the father, that when his girls asked him to teach them to ride their bikes, he'd always say, "Maybe later," because that would just take too much of his time?
 4. Illustration about the boy of the famous lawyer who wrote Law of Trust being convicted of forgery, Encyclopedia of 15, 000 Illustrations, #3669.
- D. The Spirit says in the last days "men will be lovers of themselves" (2 Tim. 3:2).
1. So many today are concerned only for themselves. If they are asked to do something, they want to know, "What's in it for me?"
 2. Fathers, are you being selfish? If so, you may lose your children.

SURROUND THEM WITH IMMORALITY, Gen. 19:4-11

- A. When the men of Sodom saw that Lot had male company, they surrounded the doorway of Lot's house and begged that they might know these men sexually.
1. Lot begged them not to take his company, but he offered them his two virgin daughters to the men to do with as they wished.
 2. The men did not want the women, but they desired to have a sexual encounter with these two angels.
 3. The angels had to pull Lot back into the house and blind the men of the city.
 4. The city was so wicked that "the outcry against them [had] grown great before the face of the LORD" and he sent his two angels to destroy the city (Gen. 19:13).
- B. The next two times, we find the daughters of Lot mentioned in Scripture, they are having an incestuous relationship with their father (Gen. 19:30-38).
1. The daughters got their father drunk and took turns having a sexual encounter with him so that they could have children.
 2. Where could Lot's daughters have learned this "anything goes" sexuality? Could it not have been from the men of Sodom?
 - a. They had lived in Sodom for some time and they had seen what was moral and right trampled upon.
 - b. Although Lot may have tried with his whole being to raise his girls properly, the environment around them may have just been too strong. Why did Lot never take his children to a safer environment?
 3. We have a large problem with immorality today — sex before marriage is commonplace, many children are born to unwed mothers, adultery is no longer considered immoral by many. Where is such behavior learned?
 - a. Undoubtedly some learn this behavior at home.
 - 1) Instead of teaching their children to stay clear of such immorality, some parents condone it.
 - 2) But, surely no Christian man would advocate such behavior.
 - b. Surely most Christian children learn this behavior from society — from their friends at school, from movies, from the Internet.
- C. Just what's a father to do?
1. As much as is possible, guard the immorality your children see.
 - a. There is no doubt that it is extremely difficult to guard our children from immorality today.
 - b. But, there are steps we can take — we need to be careful what we watch on television, we need to be careful about what our children read, we need to be careful what our children hear on the radio, we need to be careful about what our children see on the Internet.

2. Live as a pattern before your children.
 - a. You need to show love to their mother. They need to understand that under no circumstances would you be immoral with anyone.
 - b. You need to have Jesus at the center of your life — your children need to see you struggle in prayer, they need to see you assembling with the church regardless of what else is going on in your life — they need to know that you’re not going to choose a ball game over worship.
 - c. Illustration about the little girl begging her daddy to go to church, but then he begs her to go, Encyclopedia of 15, 000 Illustrations, #3667.
3. Teach your children.
 - a. Fathers need to teach their children the Word of God.
 - 1) “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Deut. 6:7).
 - 2) “Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).
 - b. Fathers need to teach their children the dangers of sin - Scripture does not list the earthly consequences of many sins.
 - 1) With immorality, one runs a risk of venereal disease, pregnancy, a loss of innocence, shame.
 - 2) With alcohol, one runs the risk of becoming a slave to the bottle, of making a fool of himself in public, of driving and killing himself or someone else.
 - 3) With gambling, one runs the risk of forfeiting his life savings, bankrupting his wife and children.
 - c. Illustration about a boy in New Jersey always waiting for a letter to be delivered on his birthday, Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations, #8876.
- D. Fathers, are you guarding your children from immorality?

CONCLUSION

- A. Poem, “Son’s Little Eyes Upon You,” Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations, #3670.
- B. We need to guard ourselves very carefully, for our children are watching us.
- C. There is an interesting statement in 2 Pet. 2:7-8.
 1. Lot was a righteous man.
 - a. He was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked.
 - b. Seeing and hearing the deeds of the men of Sodom tormented Lot’s righteous soul.
 2. There is nothing in the Old Testament that hints at Lot’s righteousness, so Peter, by inspiration, knew some things not recorded in the Old Testament.
 3. But, Lot’s righteousness teaches us a lesson — even righteous fathers make mistakes.
 - a. There can be no doubt that Lot made mistakes — selfishly wanting the plain of Jordan for himself and exposing his daughters to the immorality of Sodom.
 - b. Even we men who strive for righteousness today can make mistakes. Let us strive to be righteous men. Let us strive to raise our children according to the precepts of God.