



A YEAR
with
GOD
Daily Devotional

DAY 18



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DAY EIGHTEEN

Genesis 19 - 21

Fire, Salt, and the Laugh That Changed

Yesterday we left Abraham walking with God toward Sodom, interceding for a city full of people he didn't know. He bargained God down to ten righteous people. If there were ten, the city would be spared. Today we find out there weren't ten. There was one family. And even that family almost didn't make it out.

God's mercy is wider than we think and His judgment is more serious than we want it to be. Both are true at the same time. Genesis 19 holds them together without flinching.

The angels arrive in Sodom at evening and Lot is sitting at the city gate - a place of civic importance, which tells you something about how embedded Lot has become in this city he chose for its lush plains. He recognises the angels immediately, bows to the ground, urges them not to sleep in the square. He knows what this city does to strangers. He brings them inside.

What follows is one of the darkest scenes in Genesis - every man in Sodom, young and old, surrounding the house and demanding Lot hand over his guests. The wickedness of the city has reached a level

God described earlier as “very grave.” The angels pull Lot back inside, strike the men at the door with blindness, and tell Lot plainly: get your family out. This city is finished.

- Lot had been sitting at the gate of Sodom for years. He had chosen it. He had built a life there. And now the angels were telling him to leave everything behind by morning.

He goes to his sons-in-law - men who had married his daughters and put down roots in the city. He tells them to hurry, God is about to destroy the place. And the text says they thought he was joking. Thirteen words that carry the weight of a tragedy: he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting. They stayed. They died.

When God says it is time to leave something, hesitation is its own kind of decision. The warning you dismiss as exaggeration may be the last one you receive.

The angels have to physically take Lot's hand, and the hands of his wife and daughters, and drag them out of the city because they were lingering. Even now, with destruction coming, they are reluctant. The pull of the familiar is that strong.

They run. The instruction is clear: do not look back. Do not stop in the valley. Flee to the mountains. And Lot's wife - whose name we are never told, which is its own kind of haunting - looks back. And she becomes a pillar of salt.

“Remember Lot's wife.”

-Luke 17:32

Jesus says that. Just three words, in a conversation about the end times. Remember Lot's wife. She was almost out. She was on the road. She had her family beside her and rescue within reach. And she looked back. Not because she doubted God. But because something in the city still had her heart.

You cannot move into what God has ahead of you while your heart is still turned toward what He told you to leave. The look backward is rarely about curiosity. It is about attachment. And what we are attached to shapes which direction we face.

Chapter 20 is one of those chapters that makes you love the Bible's honesty. Abraham - the man of faith, the friend of God, the man who just bargained for Sodom - immediately moves to Gerar and tells people Sarah is his sister. Again. He did this exact thing in Egypt in chapter 12. He is afraid, and when Abraham is afraid, this is the lie he reaches for.

God protects Sarah anyway. He appears to Abimelech in a dream, and Abimelech - a pagan king - responds with more integrity than Abraham. He returns Sarah immediately. He rebukes Abraham. He gives him livestock and silver. And then Abraham prays for Abimelech and God heals his household.

- The man who needed to be rescued by a pagan king's integrity was still the one God used to pray for that king's healing. God works with what He has. He always has.

Your failures do not disqualify you from being used by God. They do not even delay His purposes. He works through cracked vessels because those are the only kind available.

And then chapter 21. The chapter the whole book has been moving toward since Genesis 12. Sarah conceives. Sarah bears a son. Abraham is one hundred years old. And they name him Isaac - which means laughter.

And Sarah laughs. But not the laugh of disbelief she laughed when she was hiding behind the tent flap in chapter 18. This laugh is different. This is the laugh of a woman holding the impossible in her arms:

*“Sarah said, 'God has brought me laughter,
and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.'”*

-Genesis 21:6

God turned Sarah's laugh of disbelief into a laugh of joy. He took the very sound she made when she couldn't believe — and He filled it with the reason to believe. He named the child after it. He does that. He takes the thing that represented your doubt and makes it the name of your breakthrough.

Hagar and Ishmael are sent away again in this chapter - a hard thing, a painful thing. And again, God meets Hagar in the

wilderness. Again El Roi finds the one who was cast out. The boy is dying of thirst and God opens Hagar's eyes to a well of water that was there all along. Not a miraculous new spring. A well she couldn't see because her grief had blinded her.

Sometimes the provision you are crying out for is already closer than you think. God does not always create something new. Sometimes He opens your eyes to what was already there.

Speak this over yourself today:

*I will not look back at what God told me to leave.
My failures do not disqualify me from His purposes.
God is turning the sound of my doubt
into the name of my breakthrough.*

TOMORROW - Day 19 Genesis 22–24

God is about to ask Abraham for the one thing he loves most. The one thing the entire promise rests on. And Abraham is going to say yes. Come back tomorrow — because what happens on that mountain is the deepest picture of the gospel in the entire Old Testament.

Day 18 of 365



MUSIC AND THE BIBLE

EVERYDAY: 3AM & 9AM

Music is more than melody it's a language of worship.

Join us on Music and the Bible as we explore
the biblical significance of music and its
role in drawing hearts closer to God.

Tune in and be inspired

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."

— Psalm 150:6

HOLY
BIBLE



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