

MESSENGERS: ANGELIC AND HUMAN

Genesis 19:15-16

Introduction: The story of Lot living in a very wicked place should be a lesson to us as it can be dangerous for Christians to be constantly exposed to sinful situations for eventually some of that sinfulness "rubs" off on even the best of people. God sent angels to get Lot and his family out of the town before He sent judgment upon it. Another lesson can be learned from the attitude of the angels. They did what they were told to do and went to Lot and gave him God's message, then helped them get out of town, even though the townspeople wanted to do harm to the angels. A lesson here is that people who care for others are God's sign of mercy and they are not received by those they are trying to help with annoyance. People who care for the lost are much like the angels who came to help get Lot and his family out of Sodom.

I. EVERY BELIEVER IS GOD'S MESSENGER

(...as my Father sent me, so send I you...")

1. Bringing the lost to Jesus Christ is worth any and every inconvenience.
 - There should be no delay and there are none too depraved or debased to be brought to the Lord.
 - There is no place that is too sinful and no sin too great to prevent one from witnessing there.
 - Where did Jesus go? What kind of people did Jesus spend time with?
2. Believers need to speak plainly of the condition and danger the lost ones are in.
 - Truth is very often disagreeable.
 - The lost must know of the terrors of hell and God's punishment.
 - An ashamed believer will never tell anyone about Jesus or the truth.
 - Jesus spoke boldly of fire, eternal death and everlasting punishment.
 - Believers must be as plain as Jesus was.
3. Believers must encourage/exhort the lost to escape damnation.
 - The lost are unknowing of their danger and strong warnings are necessary.
 - Believers were once also lost, somebody cared for them and brought them to the Lord Jesus.
4. If "words" fail, then use some other method.
 - Remember, the angels took Lot by the hand and led him out.
 - Give the lost one a good book, write him/her a letter, pray, shed tears, find some way to bring him/her to thoughtfulness about his/her situation.
 - Who cares about the thousands dying each year right HERE and going to hell?
5. Believers need to be persistent.
 - The angels didn't stop warning Lot.
 - Once the door of death is shut, there is no way to reach the lost, they are lost forever.
 - Never cease in efforts until the lost are saved or else they die.

6. Believers, YOU are God's messengers today.
 - If angels had the same command and obligation as WE do today, they would be everywhere bringing the lost to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Believers, WE are God's means of reaching the lost today - NOT the angels.
 - IF our Church, alone, would do its proper business, think of the lost that would be saved!

II. UNBELIEVERS HESITATE, LINGER

1. As Lot hesitated, wanted to stay a bit longer, so do unbelievers hesitate and put off their belief.
 - Some are afraid they might lose some worldly thing.
 - Some are afraid they might even lose their job, even though it exposes them to sin.
 - Some wrestle with the worth of their soul to hanging on to their wants and ways of life.
 - Some are afraid of losing family members or friends but don't think of the friends they will gain by becoming a member of God's family.
 - Some are afraid of ridicule, being laughed at, never thinking that it is better to be saved even if it means losing a so called friend.
 - Some think that all is well, there's no danger, not realizing that at the end of life it is either heaven or hell for all eternity.
 - Some doubt that believing on Jesus is the only way to obtain God's favor.
 - Some don't think that they need to be saved for they feel they are as good as anybody else.
 - Some don't want to have to give up their favorite sin, willing to give up their soul for that sin.
 - Some want to put off making a decision. not realizing that if they died they would go to hell.
 - Some are just not interested.
2. How can these hesitating, lingering ones be brought to the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - Time is short, lingering is dangerous, life is uncertain, and they need to be made aware of it.
 - God's grace can lose its effect and one can no longer feel God's tug as once before, the message is not as strong and if so, then that person is about to be left alone by God and then he/she will continue on his/her way to an eternity in hell.
 - Every individual must by him/herself make up his/her own mind, nobody can do it for him/her.

CONCLUSION:

1. In just a few years, everyone HERE will be experiencing one of two things - the glories of heaven or the tears of hell.
2. If YOU believe on/in the Lord Jesus Christ, then you will be seeing the glories of heaven.
3. If YOU don't believe on/in the Lord Jesus Christ all the torments of hell will be yours forever.
4. Unbelievers in hell will remember the opportunities they had to receive the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. Believers, WE are messengers for the Lord, just as the angels were/are, let's do our duty.