

“WHILE HE LINGERED”

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When we think of someone “lingering” in the story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, we usually think of Lot’s wife who “looked back” and became a “pillar of salt” (Genesis 19:26). There was someone else, though, who lingered before even leaving the doomed city of Sodom, endangering the lives of those who had been given the opportunity to leave before the destruction. It was Lot himself – read the inspired record for yourself:

Genesis 19:15-16

When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, “Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city.” And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife’s hand, and the hands of his daughters, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.”

What makes Lot’s lingering even more unusual is the fact that he had previously warned his sons-in-law to “get up, get out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city!” (v. 14). Lot knew what was going to happen and the need to get out, yet he lingered when the time came to go. Why? Did he get cold feet? Did he find it hard to leave his home and goods behind? Or did he just have trouble taking an important step when it was time to do so?



Many of us tend to hesitate, or linger, when it comes time to do something important. We second guess ourselves and the situation, and an opportunity is lost. While some decisions necessitate careful consideration, once we know the right thing to do, we need to do it! Many plan to obey the gospel, but they linger and put it off. There is a brother that needs to be restored to faithfulness, but I hesitate to say something. There is temptation I need to escape, but I am indecisive. We need God to lead us by the truth of His powerful word. Jesus is calling us to action – why should we linger?