

19.2.23 pm

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Date: 19 February 2023

Preacher: Reverend David MacLeod

[0 : 00] evening a warm welcome to the service this evening we'll begin this time of worship we'll sing to God's praise in Psalm 51 and the first two stanzas of Psalm 51 in in Gaelic after thy loving kindness Lord have mercy upon me for thy compassions great blot out all mine iniquity be cleansed from sin and thoroughly washed from mine iniquity for my transgressions I confess my sin I ever see these two verses of Psalm 51 we sing in Gaelic we remain seated to sing and after we've sung John McSween will come and lead us in prayer in Gaelic please Oomey monique

Oomey Patrick Thank you.

O I will begin now.

T ■ untâ ■ que ó h changes U libré lits giul injo T ■ Nue des qu hamel a enjel Thank you.

Thank you.

[3 : 29] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[5 : 59] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[8 : 29] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[10 : 59] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[13 : 29] Thank you.

Thank you.

Amen.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[15 : 59] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[18 : 59] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[21 : 29] Thank you.

Thank you.

in which Lot had lived. Now Lot went up out of Zor and lived in the hills with his two daughters, for he was afraid to live in Zor.

So he lived in a cave with his two daughters. And the firstborn said to the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come into us after the manner of all the earth.

Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him that we may preserve offspring from our father. So they made their father drink wine that night, and the firstborn went in and lay with their father.

[23 : 05] He did not know when she lay or when she arose. The next day the firstborn said to the younger, Behold, I lay last night with my father. Let us make him drink wine tonight also.

Then you go in and lie with him so that we may preserve offspring from our father. So they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with them. And he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

Thus both the daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father. The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to this day.

The younger also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ami. He is the father of the Ammonites to this day. Amen.

And may God bless that reading of his word to us. We're going to sing again to God's praise now. We sing again from Psalm 51. And we'll sing from verses 7 to verse 13 in English.

[24 : 09] Down to the end of verse 13.

We stand to sing to God's praise. Do thou with this a sprinkle me I shall be cleansed so Ye wash the way And then I shall be whiter than the snow Of goodness and of joyfulness Make me to hear the voice That saw these very bones Which thou hast broken

May rejoice All mine iniquities blotten Life is hide from my sin Create a ring heart Lord renew Aright Aright Spend me Within Heaven Cast me Cast me Not from Thy Side Nor take Thy Holy Spend Away Restore In Thy Salvation I With thy peace let me stay

Then will I teach thy wisdom to Those that trust and search thee And those that sinners are shall then Be turned unto thee Let's pray as we turn back to this passage Heavenly Father we thank you for your word And we pray for your help once more As we turn to this passage We acknowledge Lord with the psalmist

That we are transgressors We are sinners And yet we thank you that you are the God Who calls us to turn unto you And we thank you that as we turn to you In faith and in repentance We are promised that there is salvation That there is forgiveness And that you reveal yourself to us And you teach us The wonder of the gospel message And you bless us with your presence So we pray that you would draw near to us now Teach us your ways Reveal your character And more of the glory Lord Of your works to us And help us we pray In a passage that in many ways Seems far from us In terms of geography and time We ask that you would In the power of the Holy Spirit Teach us Help us to understand The passage

[28 : 46] And also what you are saying to us today In and through this And we acknowledge once more As we did this morning And as we do Each time we meet together That we are wholly dependent upon you We can't speak We can't hear We can't respond Without the help of the Holy Spirit And so we pray For that help just now And we pray not just for ourselves We pray for every congregation That meets As we do In different places The congregations around us In this area Whatever Christ crucified us preached We ask Lord That you would be at work That you would be blessing Your word That you would be Saving and sanctifying people Pray for the gathering This evening in Scalpy As your people come together To sing Psalms And to worship you We pray That each one Would know your presence Lord That the name of Jesus Would be lifted up And that the presence Of the Holy Spirit Would be

Would be felt Would be known And again Lord We pray for those Who are absent tonight From us We think of many Who are on holiday In different places And we thank you For the opportunity They have We pray that you Would refresh them Grant them safety And their time away And bring them back to us Also in safety That we may Once more Be found together In the house of God Worshipping In the name of Jesus So hear our prayers Take away our sin Help us Lord We pray We ask this in Jesus name And for his sake Amen Genesis chapter 19 If you could have that open In front of you You'll find that helpful We're just going to step Through the chapter This evening It's a chapter That we've maybe seen On the horizon Over the last few weeks It's a difficult chapter

For us to go through And I want to To just begin By looking at the The context That this chapter Sits in If we Think back And glance back At the previous chapter Genesis chapter 18 We see At the end of that chapter Abraham And Abraham is Standing Before the Lord That's the phrase That's used In verse 22 He's standing Before the Lord And he's praying For the city of Sodom Remember The Lord Has revealed To Abraham That the Sin of Sodom Was great And it was grievous It was an offense To the Lord And two of the The Lord's agents Were sent To Sodom To carry out An investigation To see The reality And the depravity Of what was going on In that place Genesis 18

Verse 20 And 21 The Lord said The outcry against Sodom And Gomorrah Is so great And their sin Is so grievous That I will go down And see If what they have done Is as bad As the outcry That has reached me And so That's shared With Abraham The Lord shares With Abraham The sin Of Sodom The judgment That is heading In the direction Of Sodom And Abraham No doubt With Lot in his mind And with Lot's family In his mind Those whom he loves He begins to pray For the city And in verses 22 Down to verse 33 Of Genesis 18 We're We're given an insight Into this prayer As Abraham Prays for the City of Sodom With the prospect Of this judgment That's coming And we're left At the end Of Genesis 18

Wondering What will happen next What will the news Be From Sodom What will the Lord's Investigators find When When they reach there And that takes us Into Genesis chapter 19 And The first thing That we see The first point For this evening Is The reception Into Sodom We see the two The two angels Who Arrive in Sodom And we're We're given a Picture there Of the reception That they They receive The two angels And I'll flick Between the NIV And the The ESV I did most Of my preparation In the NIV But there's some Verses that I Switch a little So the first thing We see Verse 1 Is the reception Into Sodom The two angels Arrived at Sodom In the evening And Lot was sitting In the gateway Of the city

[33 : 48] And immediately There There should be Alarm bells For us Immediately We can We can sense That there's a There's a problem Here because Lot Is sitting In the gateway Of the city And the gateway Of the city That's the place Where all the action Happened That's where the Business was done You could say It was like It was like The council Officers of Sodom That's where All the business Transactions Went on That's where All the people Of influence And power Met together To transact Their daily Business And we see Lot And he's standing There and he's In the midst Of it all And it shows How immersed Lot was In the life Of Sodom Remember we've We've seen Lot As we've Glanced at him In the previous Chapters He chooses

To move in the Direction of Sodom But he stays Back from it And then the next Time we see him He's on the Fringes of Sodom But he's still A step removed From it But now he's Right in the city He's immersed In the life Of Sodom And if we go Forward a little Into the chapter We can see That Lot He He has a house Now You might think Well what's the Significance of that But if you think Back to the Previous chapter When the angels Meet with Abraham Remember where They find him They find him Sitting at the Entrance to the Tent Remember Abraham Is following the Lord The Lord Called him Out And the Lord called Abraham To follow And so Abraham Doesn't have A house He's not Settled He has A tent And he Moves As the Lord Guides Him And he Stops As the Lord Direction

But not So with Lot Lot Is It's Firmly Established In the City He has A house We're Told In verse 2 Verse 3 Verse 4 Verse 10 That he's A house Owner And we Can just Imagine him He's There in That city He's Truly Settled Down In Sodom He's Got a Steady Job At the City Gate He's Got a House And a Mortgage And a Driveway And an Estate Car And he's Settled He's He's Comfortable It seems In that World And it Causes us To To ask The question By way Of Application Where are We Are we Are we In this World

And Comfortable And settled In this World Following The Patterns And the The The pools Of this World Or are We People who Realize That We're Just Sojourners You know We're Passing Through We have No Continuing City Here And so Our Focus Is on The world The city The place That has Been prepared For us By the Lord Jesus Do we Have that That healthy Sense of Being unsettled In this World And thirsting For the Home For the Home That Jesus Has promised To all Who are Trusting Him Are we Are we Still Intense Of following The Lord

Jesus Where he Guides us And directs Us Or are we Those who Have settled And who are Firmly Established And what we See Is all On ground Level Let's Read on Still in Verse 1 So Lot He Is At the City Gate He's Sitting There And when He saw Them When he Saw The angels He got Up to Meet Them And bowed Down With his Face To the Ground My Lord He Said Please Turn Aside To Your Servant's House You Can Wash Your Feet And Spend The Night And Then Go On Your Way Early In The Morning And In One Sense We Could Say As We Listen Into This Conversation In One Sense The Conversation Goes Kind Of Well Because Lot He Seems To Recognize He Seems To The

[38 : 50] Sense That These Angels Are The Lord's Messengers And He Meets Them Readily He Doesn't Push Them Away And He Shows Them Reverence He's Polite He's Reverent Towards Them And He Seems To Want To Have Fellowship With Them And Maybe Something In Lot Was Stirred Maybe He He He He Was Remembering Past Times Of Blessing And Maybe He Just Wanted To Taste Something Of That Again So He Asked Them To Stay With Them But Not For Too Long Just For Just For A Night Why Just A Night Well We Don't Know We're Not Told That But Maybe Lot Just Wanted A A Taste Of Spirituality Of Religion But Not Too Much He Just Wanted To Taste Something That Was Familiar And That

Brought That Spiritual Pleasure Back Into His Heart Or It May Have Been That Lot Sensed That There Was Danger Up Ahead He Didn't Want Them To Linger Too Long We Don't Know We're Not Told But What We Can See Is That The Angels In Spite Of The Invitation The Reception Of Lot They're Not Keen To Stay In The City So We've Got The Reception Into Sodom As Lot Meets These Two Angels And The Second Point That We See Here Is The Refusal In The First Instance Anyway To Stay In Sodom We Have The Answer In Verse Two Lot Extends The Invitation And They Answer Very Firmly No We Will Spend The Night In The Square But He Lot Insisted So Strongly That They Did Not That They Did Go In With Them And Entered His House He Prepared A Meal For Them Baking Bread Without Without And They

Eat And Again Let's Ask The Question As We Think About What We're Reading In The Text Why Why The Refusal On The Part Of The Angels To Stay With Lot Because He Meets Them And He Greets Them And He Says Come On In I Want You To Stay With Me I Want You To Eat With Me And Their Response Is Not A Positive Response They Push Back They Don't Seem Ready To Eat With Lot They Rather Stay In The Square They They're Distant From Him They Don't Want To Stay So Why Is That And Again We're We're Not Crystal Clear On This But I Think It's Fair To Say It's Because They They Knew They Sensed That This

City Was Not A Place For The Lord's People To Settle This Was Not A Place To Enter Into And To Settle Down And This Was A Place To Flee From Because They Can See The Sin Within It They Can Sense The Atmosphere Within The Place As They're Sent To Investigate What's Happening On Ground Level They Sense Danger They're Not At Ease In That Environment That's So Clearly And Openly Sinful They Know That They Need To Leave There As Soon As Possible Their Conscience Their Sense Of Moral Discernment Is Tingling And Yet In Contrast To Them Lot Seems So Unfazed We See Him And Lot Is Not Making Plans To Leave The City He Settled Within It And So We

Ask The Question Why Is Lot So Unfazed Why Is He So Unbothered And I Think The Answer To That Question Is His Conscience Is Dulled His Heart Has Become Hard And He's Got Used To Being In That Environment And That Place Of Sin And We Know As We Think About Our Lives That That Can Happen Our Consciences Can Get Dulled We Can Become Accustomed To And Even To A Degree Comfortable In An Environment That Is Sinful Think Even About The Most Mundane Example We Can Be Watching The Television There There Can Be A Program On And We We We're Watching This And We We We Hear Language In The Program And At First

[43 : 51] We Hear It And It Shocks Us And We're Not At Ease We're Very Uncomfortable But Then If We're Exposed To That Kind Of Program That Kind Of Language Over A Slightly Longer Period We Start To Get Used To It Doesn't Shock Us Anymore And Then We Hardly Notice It Our Conscience Becomes Becomes Dulled And Even In Terms Of The Places That We Can Go There Sometimes Places That We Can Go And At First We Feel Uncomfortable But Then As We Take A Bit More Time In That At At At At At At We Get Used To It Doesn't Bother Us Anymore And That's Where Lot Was But The Angels Were Showing Lot And They Were Teaching Lot That This Was

Not The Place That He Should Stay In Spite Of His Apparent Comfort In The City Of Sodom The Angels Are Teaching Lot That He Needed To Leave That Place He Needed To Repent Of Sin He Needed To Get Out Of That Environment And Yet Lot Is Saying To These Angels Let's Not Rush Off Come On Inside And We'll Have A Meal We'll Have Some Time Together And We Can Be Like That We Can Be Like Lot We Can Look At This Passage And Think What On Earth Has This Got To Do With Me How Can I Connect With Lot What's This This Whole Grim Chapter Got To Do With My Experience And Yet We Can Be We Can Be Like Lot When We Want The Lord To Bless Us When We Want To To To To Taste Fellowship With God But We Don't Want To Leave Our Sin Behind God

Says To The Angels Come With Me I Want To Taste Something Spiritually Sweet Come Inside Sit With Me And Yet What The Angels Seem To Be Saying Is No If You If You Want To Taste And See That The Lord Is Good You Need To Leave This Place Need To Flee From This City You Need To Repent I Suppose The New Testament Equivalent Is The Parable Of The Prodigal Son Luke 15 Remember He He Goes Off To The Far Country He's In A Place That Appears To Be A Lot Like Sodom And Yet His Life Begins To Fall Apart And He Finds Himself In A Pig Sty And He's Yearning He's Longing To To Know Some Of The Comfort That He Once New In His Father's

House And He Speaks That Out As He's In This Pig Sty How Can He Taste The Blessing Of Being Near The Father Again Well He Can't Taste The Blessing Of Being Near The Father He Father And Saying Come And Join Me In The Pig Sty No The Prodigal Had To He Had To Leave The Pig Sty He Had To Get Out Of The Far Country He Had To Turn Back To His Father He Had To Go Home And Maybe The Lord Is Saying To Someone Tonight It's Time To Leave It's Time To Leave Your Sorrow Before Things Get Any Worse Anna McCray Was Telling Me A Story A Few Days Ago About A Mother Who

Was Estranged From I Think Her Daughter There Had Been A Falling Out There Had Been An Estrangement The Mother Is At Home The Daughter Is Far Away And Yet In The Heart Of The Mother There Is That Love For The Daughter And There Is That Longing That The Daughter Would Come Home So Every Night When The Mother Would Go To Bed She Would Leave The Light On So That Should The Daughter Come Back She Would See The Light Was On The Door Was Open The Welcome Was There And That's How The Lord Is With Us We We Are Those Who Are Prone To Wander As We Sam We Are Those Who Sometimes Find Ourselves In The Sodoms Of This World But The Light Of The Father Is On

[48 : 58] As Still As We See Him In The Prodigal Son Parable He Scans The Horizon He Calls He Home So We See The Reception Into Sodom We See The Refusal On The Part Of The Angels To Want To Stay In Sodom The Third Thing We See Here And It's Pretty Gruesome As We See The Repercussions Of Sin We See Various Pictures That Show Us Just The The Graphic Putrid Reality Of Sin And We Need To See That From Time To Time Remember As A Child One Of The Things That We Were Told Always Was Don't Play With Matches The Reason You Don't Play With Matches

Is Because You Get Burned I Can Remember When We Were In Primary School There Was This Thing That We We I'm Using The Plural We Here That We Young Lads Love To Do And It Was Called A Magic Genie And What Would Happen Is You Would Buy A Box Of Matches And You Would Open The Box So It Just A We But Open You Light One Match You Throw It Out Of The Box You Should Never Do Young People But You Would Always Running The Risk Of Getting Seriously Burned You Had To Jump Back Quick You Don't Play With Fire You Don't Play With Matches Because You Are Going To Get Burned And If You And I Play With Sin If We Make Sodom Our Playground

As Lot Did There Will Be Consequences There Will Be Repercussions And There Are Various Instances In This Chapter Where We See How Costly And How Ugly It Was For Lot To Stay In Sodom And We See In Verses 4 To Verse 7 This Horrible Scene As The Men Of Sodom Surround The House Where These Two Angels Were And They Make Advances They Try To Apply Pressure They Try To Have These Men Dragged Out Into The Streets Because They Want To As The ESV Puts It Know Them And Lot Realises The Trouble He's In And Lot Realises The The

Consequences Of What's About To Happen And So He He Begins By Saying The Right Moral Thing He He He He He Confronts These Men Who Are Battering At His Door And He Says Don't Do This Evil Thing But As The Pressure Mounts Lot's Defenses Fall And In Verses Eight And Nine He Says The Most Awful Thing He Says Leave These Leave These Men Alone But Let Me Let My Daughters Out On The Street And It's The Most Distressing Distasteful Ugly Scene But What We Are Seeing Is What The Lord Saw And Spoke Of In Genesis 18 And Verse 20 We Are Seeing The Grievous Sin Of Sodom And Not Only Has Lot Chosen

To Be In That Place And Put Himself At Risk But He's He's Brought His Whole Family Into That Place And It's It's Disturbing To Read It's A Difficult Passage To Think Through But Sometimes We Need To See This Sometimes We Need To Look To See Where Sin Can Take Us Often Sin Will Take Us Into Places That We Would Never Have Imagined And Into Situations That We Would Never Have Knowingly Chosen When We Go Down The Path Of Sin And Compromise We Can Often Find Ourselves Doing Things That We Would We Would Never Have Thought Sin Like A Fire Very Very Quickly Will Get Out Of Control And

[54 : 03] We See That Fire Burning Here In The Life Of Lot And His Family And It's Disturbing But We Need To See This Because This Is The Ugly Character Of Sin This Is A Picture Of Sin When The Glitter And The Glamour Is Peeled Away This Is The Hideous Core Of Sin That We Are Seeing On The Streets Of Sodom And Even If We Look On A Little More We See That After Lot And His Family Are Taken Out Of Sodom The The Repercussions Of That Sinful Environment Linger Sodom leaves A Mark On Lot Because

He Finds It Hard To Leave The Place Verses Verses 17 To 22 You Can See That As The Angels Are Pressing Upon Lot The Urgency Of Leaving He Doesn't Want To Go Far He Wants To Stay Close By Still That Pool Into Sodom's Ways Is Upon Him And Sodom Leaves Its Mark On Lot's Wife Because In Verse 26 We See Lot's Wife She She Is Lost Because She Can't Leave Sin And Then In Verses 31 To 38 We See That The Morality Or The Sexual Immorality Of Sodom Is Still In The Daughters Of Lot As They Entrap Their Father And They Carry Out This Awful Plan So This Is Ugly This Is Difficult

This Is Disturbing Sin But This Is In The Bible Because We Need To See The Repercussions Of Sin In Order That We Will Be Constantly Repenting Of It And Fleeing From It And Also I Think We Need To See The Gruesome Reality Sin Because This Enables Us To Understand A Little Bit More About What Jesus Had To Face On The Cross Jesus Was Punished For For Some Of The Most Hideous Sins In Our Lives And In Many Other Lives T

But Lot's sin had to be paid for. And if Lot didn't pay for it, Jesus had to pay for it on the cross.

The one who was too pure to look upon sin became sin for Lot. And he became sin for us so that we could be cleansed of it.

[57 : 50] So we see the repercussions of sin. And finally, we see the rescue. And I want to finish just by praising the Lord for the rescue that we see here.

Verses 10 and 11, as the powers of hell are outside the door of Lot's house. And as Lot is getting pulled into this, we read in verse 10, but the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door.

Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness, so that they could not find the door. And so we see here in stages that Lot, he's rescued.

But it's not Lot who is doing the rescuing. Lot is passive here. It's the Lord who reaches out. It's the Lord who, using his angels, pulls Lot back.

It's the Lord who sought out Lot. It's the Lord who determines to spare Lot. He wasn't able to overpower this crowd.

[59 : 10] But it was the Lord that saved him. It was the Lord that rescued him. There's echoes of Psalm 40. The psalmist is sinking.

It's the Lord who lifts him up and saves him. And it's an illustration, one of many that we see in the Bible, of how the Lord works with us.

We don't save ourselves. We can't. Not by our works, not by our religion. We are saved by the Lord. It's his work.

We are saved by his grace. And we see that with Lot. He's rescued from the men in the street as the Lord uses his angels to pull him out.

And then we see with Lot and his whole family, as we fast forward on a little bit more, that the rescue from Sodom is the Lord's work.

[60 : 16] It's the Lord using these angels that press upon Lot, the urgency and the necessity of leaving the place.

There's hesitation on the part of Lot and the family. But what we read in verse 16, as we see Lot and his wife and his two daughters grasped by the hand and led out safely from the city, we read these words that teach us how salvation is possible.

And the words there in verse 16 is, the Lord was merciful to them. And so I want to just finish by underlining the truth of that verse.

The Lord was merciful to them. This chapter is grim as we see the graphic nature of sin, but in the midst of the darkness of sin, we see the light of the Lord's mercy.

The Lord did not give up on them. But he showed them mercy. He saved them. He remembered Abraham's prayer. And he acted in response to that.

[61 : 59] He showed them mercy. Did he deserve it? Does he look at Lot? Absolutely not. But mercy wouldn't be mercy if we deserved it.

So let's finish this evening by praising the Lord for his mercy shown to us. because he is the same Lord who seeks and who saves us.

He shows mercy. He shows grace to us as he calls us to turn from sin, to turn from the Sodoms of this world, and to find salvation in and through Jesus.

Let's pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you for your word and we thank you that even in the grimmest of passages we see your constant love and mercy.

and we thank you that you're the God who does not change. Although our sins are many, although we see much of the mistakes of Lot in our lives as we feel the pool of sin and to places that we often should not be found, we thank you that you're the God who takes hold of us, who calls us to repent, to turn to you and who shows us mercy and grace as we come.

[63 : 50] We thank you, Father, for sending your Son into this world. We thank you that the Lord Jesus is the one who made it possible for us to be shown mercy.

We thank you that he suffered for sinners like Lot and for sinners like us. And if we look in faith to him, we are cleansed from sin and we are given a salvation that is eternally secure.

So although our sins are many, we thank you that your mercy is more and help us, we pray, to sing praise to you as we close this time together and we ask this in Jesus' name and for his sake.

Amen. We'll sing now the words of that hymn to finish. What love could remember no wrongs we have done omniscient all knowing he counts not their sum thrown into a sea without bottom or a shore our sins they are many his mercy is more.

We'll stand to sing to God's to sing to God's praise. God's love love could remember no wrongs we have done omniscient all knowing he counts not their sum thrown into a sea without bottom or shore our sins they are many his mercy is more praise the Lord his mercy is more praise the Lord his mercy is more so could the darkness knew any more how sins they are many his mercy is more praise the Lord would wait as we constantly roam one father so tender is calling us home he welcomes the weakest the violent the poor our sins they are many his mercy is more praise the Lord his mercy is more his mercy is more stronger the darkness knew and be more our sins they are many his mercy is more praise the Lord his mercy for riches of kindness he lavished on us his blood was the payment his life was the cost we stood near the debt we could never afford our sins they are many his mercy is more

[67 : 12] Praise the Lord, his mercy is more. Stronger than darkness, new and more.

Our sins, they are many, his mercy is more. And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of God the Holy Spirit be with us all now and forevermore. Amen.