

Lessons From Unfaithful Servants



Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come

1Cor 10:11



Introduction

We have great examples in the scriptures.

- God is a great example. Thus he is our great teacher by his words and actions.
- The examples of our Lord. John 9 is a perfect example.
- All the apostles were good examples. Peter is one of mistakes and redemption. John one of love and purity.
- Our brethren, past and present our examples.

We also have examples in the scriptures of what not to do.

- Why would God give us bad examples?



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MISTAKES

IT COULD BE THAT THE PURPOSE OF YOUR LIFE IS
ONLY TO SERVE AS A WARNING TO OTHERS.



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Introduction

Our trials determine our final destiny.

“DEVELOPMENT of character implies a variety of experiences and tests.” R2847

- God is testing our Love.
- There will be three final destinations. Heaven, Earth, Death
- Everybody is offered 2 of the 3. It is their choice.
- Little Flock/Great Company are called.
- Second Death is not chosen by God, only the recipient. (F302)

Today we will review some that made bad decisions.

- None of these are in Second Death.
- But they illustrate those that either go to Second Death or Great Company.



Introduction

Well that sounds depressing...

- We hope to consider 4 concepts today.
 - God wants you to win.

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

John 15:16
 - He has given you everything you need. -- Christ being the most important.
 - What actions can prevent us.
 - What actions can **secure** our future.



Balaam Numbers 22,23

Who was Balaam who we will consider today?

- He was a prophet.
- Josephus states :
 - “Now these Midianites knowing there was one Balaam, who lived by Euphrates, and was the **greatest of the prophets at that time**, and one that was in friendship with them”
 - (Chapter 6) Antiquities of the Jews, Josephus
- In 1967 archaeologists found an inscription of the a story of Bala'am in Jordan. Stories that he was a seer of visions.
- He had a reputation.



Balaam

Our consideration starts in Numbers 21.

- Verse 21,22,23
 - Israel asks Sihon King of the Amorites to walk through
- Verse 24,25
 - He attacks and is defeated, big mistake.
 - Naves Topical Bible states the Amorites were “Giants”

Numbers 22:1-6

- The Moabites and the Midianites are concerned.
- Messengers are sent with money to Balaam.

That was the catalyst for this lesson, i.e. money, fame and honor



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What is our motivation to action?

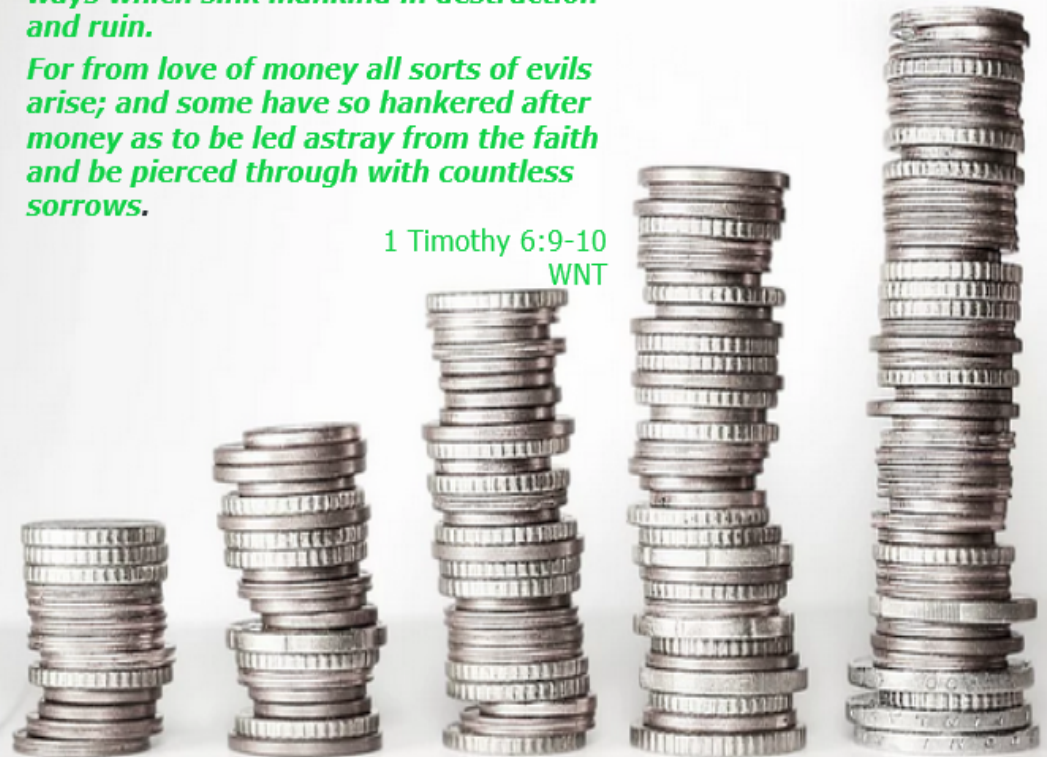
He that
trusteth in his
riches shall
fall: but the
righteous
shall flourish
as a branch.

Proverbs 11:28 (KJV)

But people who are determined to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many unwise and pernicious ways which sink mankind in destruction and ruin.

For from love of money all sorts of evils arise; and some have so hankered after money as to be led astray from the faith and be pierced through with countless sorrows.

1 Timothy 6:9-10
WNT



Are any of our actions the result
of a lack of faith?



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Balaam - Round 1

At first we see a problem:

Num 22:6 Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.

Contrast with Elisha 2 Kings 5:1-19

His interaction end with Naaman praising God and Elisha saying :

“The prophet answered, “As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing.” And even though Naaman urged him, he refused.”

2 Kings 5:16

Balaam is told that **NO, GOD WILL NOT CURSE ISRAEL, AND YOU CANNOT GO.**

Balaam's response : **the LORD refuseth to give me leave to go with you (22:13)**

They leave



Balaam - Round 2

Balaam's test is not over

Balak the King can only think, he wants more (sadly true)

So he writes a blank check.

Money, Honor, anything he wants.

Balaam's response:

22:18 And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

But let me check....

God's Response : Go ahead, but you will not be able to curse them...

22:22 And God's anger was kindled because he went:



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Balaam - Round 3

Balaam's test is getting harder
Will he listen to a dumb animal.

- The donkey saw first.
- Balaam continued.
- The donkey speaks, he responds. **FULL OF SELF WILL**
- What the angel says.
 - 22:33 And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive.
- He repents. Kinda...
 - 22:34 And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again.





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Balaam - Round 4

Balaam's battle with self.

22:37 "am I not able indeed to promote thee to honour?"

- Balaam speaks truth.
 - 22:38 And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.



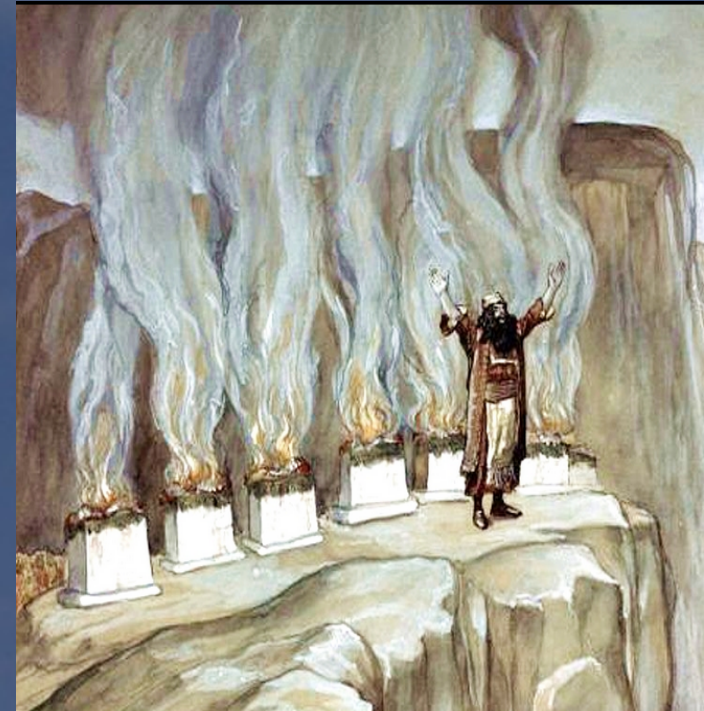


Balaam - Round 5

Balaam's puts on a show.

23:1 And Balaam said unto Balak, Build me here seven altars, and prepare me here seven oxen and seven rams.

- Balaam looks holy.
 - God tells him what to say.
 - He makes great sacrifices to God.
- This the very place that God asks Moses to view the promised land.
 - The promised land was in view, and it is not what is important to him.
- Think how Balak feels....





Balaam - Round 6,7,8

Balaam's fails his test.

24:25 And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place: and Balak also went his way.

- Josephus suggests that on his return home he finds way to get what he wanted.

“Do you therefore set out the handsomest of such of your daughters as are most eminent for beauty, and proper to force and conquer the modesty of those that behold them”

- This we find out is just what happened.

31:16 Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.





Balaam's – Legacy

- 31:8 And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; [namely], Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: **Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.**

He died with the enemies of the Lord's people.

2Pet 2:15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the **way of Balaam [the son] of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;**

Jude 1:11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, **and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward,** and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the **doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel,** to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.





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Balaam's – Effect on us

- Our wills must be dead. Not kind of dead. **Really dead.**
- Beware things we do to show others that we are religious, **God's favorites.**
- Beware our need for **honor and riches.**
- Beware our **need** to be loved by **the family, the brethren, and**
- **the world.** All these **must** be secondary to God.

- If you are a speaker at convention, **be very aware why** you give talks.
- If you are an elder, what happens **if you are not elected?**
- How do we look at others? “Do we think we are better bible students?”
- **Spiritual pride is a terminal illness to the new creation.**



“As already indicated, one of the serious things connected with this malady of spiritual pride is that **those who have it are rarely aware of it.** Another difficulty is that it is almost impossible to correct them and to cause them to know that they have the disease. If spoken to on the subject they seem to think at once that their benefactor is their enemy; that he is jealous of them; that he would like to get their position, etc. **Hence the disease is nearly incurable, except as either the Class may assist or the Lord's providence may interpose.** “ R5955



Balaam's – Effect on us

“Our glorified Redeemer, in His last message to the Church, foretold that some of His followers would imitate Balaam and, for earthly advantage, put a stumbling-block in the path of the brethren. The intimation is that the harlotry and false worship would be on a higher plane than that which stumbled Natural Israel--even as everything in this Christian Dispensation is antitypical.”

R5322





Lot and his Wife

Our subject starts with Gen 13:7

13:7 And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land.

13:8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we [be] brethren.

13:9 [Is] not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if [thou wilt take] the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if [thou depart] to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

- Both Lot and Abrahams flocks were blessed.
- Lot was blessed because of Abraham.
- Lot choose the plain of Jordan.





Lessons From Unfaithful Servants

Lot and his Wife

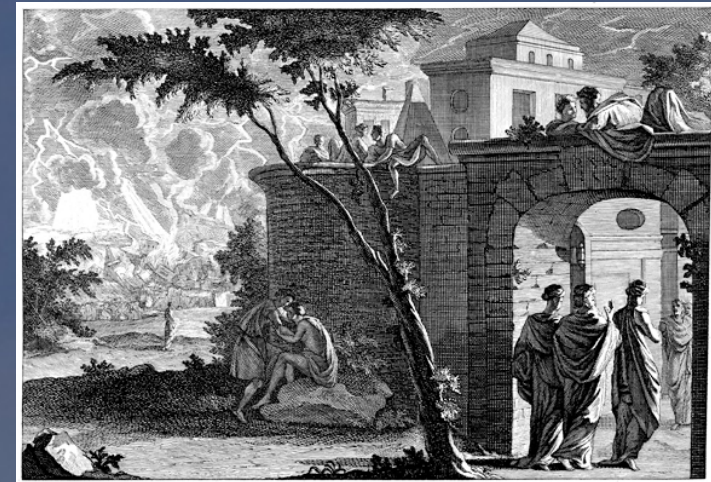
Lot and his wife get a visit.

19:1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and **Lot sat in the gate of Sodom:** and Lot seeing [them] rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

19:2 And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.

19:3 And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

- Lot was sitting at the gate.
Prov 31:23 Her husband is known in the gates, **When he sits among the elders of the land.**
- **This visit should have impressed him and his family.**





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Lot and his Wife

Crowd gets out of hand.

19:4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, [even] the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:

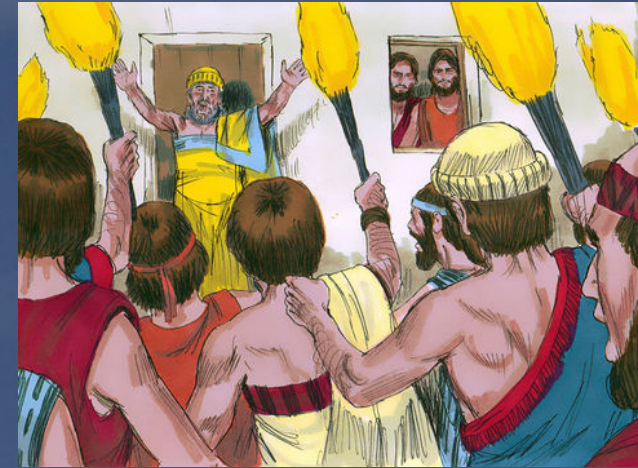
19:5 And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where [are] the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

19:6 And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him,

19:7 And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly.

19:8 Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as [is] good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.

19:9 And they said, Stand back. And they said [again], This one [fellow] came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, [even] Lot, and came near to break the door.



What was Lot thinking.



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Lot and his Wife

Removal all righteous people

19:10 But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door.

19:11 And they smote the men that [were] at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

19:12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring [them] out of this place:

19:13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.

19:14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.





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Lot and his Wife

Removal Lot's Family



19:15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

19:16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

19:17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

19:18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord:

19:19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast showed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

19:20 Behold now, this city [is] near to flee unto, and it [is] a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, ([is] it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.



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Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities near them, which like them committed sexual sins and pursued homosexual activities, serve as an example of the punishment of eternal fire.

Jude 1:7 ISV





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Lot and his Wife

Removal Lot's Family

- Angels come and state they have to go.
- They are required to grab Lot and family to force them to leave.
- Lot begs to go to Zoar.
- Once they get there the fire and brimstone comes and the city is destroyed.





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Lot and his Wife

Lot's wife is destroyed with the city



19:26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.





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Lot and his Wife

Abraham watches.



19:28 And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.



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Lot and his Wife

Lessons to consider

- This is a story of the Great Company
- Lot and his family were FORCED to leave.
- No Doubt Lots Wife looked back at her two daughters.
- She is condemned. We are not to think we are more just than God.
- Do we hate this world and it's sin?
- How do we approach the events of the last few weeks. Do we rejoice?
- God was faithful to his word, he helped them escape.
- Will we be Abraham or Lot and his family?





Lessons From Unfaithful Servants



Sulphur Ball - Embedded in the ash remaining from the destroyed buildings



Brimstone - in the white monoclinic form, a result of having been 'cooked'



Gomorraah's "cooked" sulphur (left) vs naturally occurring yellow sulphur