

Comedy and Horror

In the Bible

It is what it is: Genesis 19 (Two conniving Daughters)

Could two conniving daughters sleep with their father in the Bible?

The Story Part one:

Have you ever gone the wrong way? One night it was snowing and I could not clearly see the road and went down the wrong way. Another time I met a girl before I was ready to date. Boy did that go wrong. There are times that we make decisions that turn out badly. What scares me is my kids. What also scares me is this verse in Numbers 14:18 **“The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”**

Is it possible that a decision can affect not only us but others as well? My kids have never fully recovered from their parents' divorce. I know a woman that has never recovered from rape. Sometimes we can overcome and other times that's it, were done. The Bible is chalked full of bad decisions. I'd like to say good ones too, but mostly bad ones. Why? I think it's our nature to choose. We like our choices over God's choices. It's that simple. The Bible is made up of stories and insights based on how we think and live.

In Genesis 19 we have the crazy story of two daughters. They come from a widowed father named Lot. He made some pretty big choices. Those decisions affected his daughters. The way they live and think were sculpted by Lot's choices. Horror comes in many forms. Maybe the horror of knowing you hurt your children is the worst. I always heard that what makes hell bad is seeing your kids there with you: they followed in your footsteps. That might be hell.

Imagine if you will that your daughters are born. They begin life in the town you chose. They begin life in the community you desire. What will you put up with? What neighborhood is ok? Is family life great or dangerous? Who will be their friends? I wonder if in the end it's about who is your friends. What do you love? Do you have secret passions? Do you really think your passions evade your family? They might not know it, but deep down your ways will be their ways.

For the next three weeks let's look at the two daughters of Lot. He is the brother of the famous Abraham in the Bible. Abraham always looked out for his brother Lot. Still, at some point Lot had to make his own way. It says in Genesis 12 that God told Abraham to leave his family and go to another land. It also says that Abraham took his brother Lot with him. Some people have noted that Abraham should not have brought family with him. That was not God's intent.

Maybe God knew that Lot was a bad egg. You see in the next chapter 13 the Brothers had a falling out and had to separate. Lot was given the choice of what way he wanted to Go. He chose the land and city of Sodom and Gomorrah. That city and countryside was filled with a bad culture, yet Lot was attracted to many things. That is where the two daughters of Lots got their start. In a wicked and vile city.

Soon after the split, God decided to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham pleaded with God to let his brother Lot and his family be saved. God agreed and two angels rescued Lot. It's interesting that Lot did not want to leave. I bet his Daughters did not too. That is strange because Lot told the angels it was a bad place. Lot even offered his Daughters to the evil men in the village. There is nothing good about this story. In the end we find Lots hesitating but the angels pushed them away from the city.

It says that Lot's wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt. Lots begged the angels to let him live in a neighboring town of Zoar. Yet, again Lot was afraid of that town. So they took refuge in a cave. The daughters grew up in this evil and vile countryside. They had just lost their mother and home. Both of them had been reduced to a cave with their father. That is where even more horror and wickedness begins with two conniving daughters of Lot. Wait till next week!!

The story Part two:

I keep coming back to the back story. There is something chilling as a parent with these two conniving daughters. Was it the parents fault? Is it a bad father? Was the mother bad? They also say it takes a village to raise a child. The villages of Sodom and Gomorrah were vile and wicked towns. What drove these two girls to devise a plan to sleep with their drunken father? Was it possibly Self-preservation or vile and wickedness?

There are about 40 teaspoons of salt in our bodies at any one time depending on our weight and size. Imagine the mother of these two daughters looking back upon her home as Gods nuclear bomb went off. Was she vaporized? Why only her, surely the girls and Lot were near? Why a pillar of salt? Salt was a valuable thing in those days. It was used to preserve. There are several explanations as to why salt but each of them is speculation. What is clear is that she looked back. I suppose it means she either wanted to go back or was plainly looking to see God toast the place.

I point out the salt thing because of the daughters. They witnessed a great many things in their early life. They first hand witnessed Sodom and Gomorrah. Don't tell me that this wicked place had no effect on them. They witnessed the destruction of their home. They witnessed the

destruction of their mother. Imagine being reduced to a cave with their passive father. That's the other thing. Their father was willing to give them over to be raped in the place of two visitors. What kind of family life did they have? In the end all they knew was that people have sex with whomever, and that depravity and wickedness was a way of life rather than a sin. They also knew they were the best chance of a family line and that meant everything to girls in those days.

Either way here we stand in a cave. This is a horror story. The older said to the younger let us give wine to our father and get him so drunk we could have sex with him. Did Lot approve. Was he too drunk to know. How on earth could these two do such a thing? So many questions. The main thing is the action. The older gave the wine with intent. Sure she said it was to preserve the family tree but really? There is also the mention of no good men in the area to be their good husbands. It appears to me that they knew what men did and do in this land and it's not with the women.

These girls did not know God in my mind. God is not mentioned. They took action to do what must be done. Lot was either unaware (too drunk) or he just as corrupt as the area had become. Either way each girl over two nights did the same thing. We have heard stories of bad fathers sleeping with their daughters. Imagine it the other way around. In the beginning of this story God told Abraham to leave his family behind and go to a different country. Maybe God knew more about Lot and his family.

Horror has a way of making people sick inside. That's what this has made me. However, there is more. Horror could also be the ramifications of an action. Lot decided to live in a vile land. He raised to vile daughters. He also gave an atmosphere to have his daughters sleep with him. Their children from this unholy union is horrific too. They birthed Moab and the Ben-

ammi. These two boys became the wicked and vile nations of the Amorites and Moab. Both did unspeakable things to themselves and the surrounding countryside.

Sin has a way of making things go from bad to worse. Mistakes happen when people become distracted. Lot became distracted with the plush countryside of Sodom and Gomorrah. His wife became distracted with looking back in regret. His daughters became distracted with vile sex to preserve a family line. There is no mention of God from Lots family. This is modern family gone wrong. This is married with children run amuck. This is how I met your mother the wrong way. Next week let's see if there is anything to learn from this mess.

What we can learn:

Certainly, we can take a few good lessons from the conniving daughters. I mean they were just trying to do their best with what they got right? It's so tough when all you know is what you are told. Maybe the lessons we have are passed down by what you witnessed. Is it the norm to be a certain way? I do honestly feel bad for the conniving daughters. Their upbringing left them with little hope of honesty and goodness.

How was your upbringing? Did you have it tough? Where you dealt a bad hand? Why do you think the way you do? I can relate with two stories. One is that I was shown by a large mother how to eat. I am in shape but food is a struggle. I love food. I was schooled how to eat anything. Another story is that I stumbled upon a late night Italian soft porn soap opera on regular TV. What struck me was Christian intro song by a famous Christian Italian artist. The TV show was normal in Italy. That was not normal in North America.

We are raised to think like our parents and our community. There is two ways of knowing God. One way is called special revelation. That might look like a spiritual encounter or

answered prayer. Maybe it looks like a miracle. The other form is called general revelation. Look at Romans 1:20 **“For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”**

It means we have seen Gods handy work. We can't quite put our finger on why we exist. How can something come from nothing? There is beauty, storms, and strange creatures. Yet, somehow we are. These daughters of Lot only know what they know, yet why be conniving if it's normal. It's because deep down they know what is wrong and right. Each one of us knows what good is. That is the essence of general revelation.

The lessons we learn are complicated and simple. One is that we all know that there is something more. We know what goodness is. We know what kindness is. These two girls tricked their father into having sex with them because they felt the need to continue their line. There were other ways. We all do it. We rush into things before it's time. Our time and Gods time are rarely the same. I feel we tend to fail because we rush things. The siblings of these two daughters became a nightmare for others. Our ill-timed decisions often become nightmares too.

Another lesson is who are your friends? Who do you associate with? I have always said that gangs kill gangs. Robbers meet peril because they work with other bad people. We are not only what we eat but who we call friends. We are similar to our friends because we like what they represent. What do your friends represent? Sometimes it's bad decisions encouraged by others. The older conniving daughter influenced the younger. Who influences you and who do you influence?

Finally, this whole horror mishap is about trusting God. Lot did not trust God. He chose the land pleasing to the eye. Lot did not try and stick close the fairly good brother Abraham. Miss Lot looked back because she did not trust that God's path was better for her, her husband, and her children. The daughters did not trust that God would provide. There is a story of a man stranded on a deserted Island. He prayed that God would provide a way home. Wood floated ashore so he built a hut. One day the hut burned down and he became angry with God. The next day a boat rescued him because they saw the smoke. God is never late but we are usually early.

In the end I feel we don't give the Bible enough credit. God chose to expose our worst days on paper. To humiliate us? Heavens no, but to give us options. To see what we usually don't see. Our lives are like sandpaper. It's rough going but things tend to smooth out in the end. Lot, his wife, and daughters just needed a little patience. We just need a little patience. Time to God is a thing to be looked at. He does not experience it like we do. He can see the beginning and end. We would be served well to wait on the one who can see around the corner we have not come to yet.