

#04 VaYera: The Expression of Their Faces

- **VaYera:**

- Genesis 18.1-15: God promises Abraham a son by Sarah.
- Genesis 18.16-33: Abraham interceding for Sodom.
- Genesis 19.1-29: Destruction of Sodom, and Lot's deliverance.
- Genesis 19.30-38: The incest of Lot.
- Genesis 20.1-17: Sarah taken and restored by Abimelech.

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- **VaYera (cont):**
 - Genesis 21.1-6: The birth of Isaac.
 - Genesis 21.7-21: Ishmael banished, yet delivered.
 - Genesis 21.22-33: Abraham's covenant with Abimelech.
 - Genesis 22.1-24: The Akeda, Abraham offers Isaac.

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- **Abraham's faith:**

- Gen 18:16-19 TLV Then the men got up from there and looked down over Sodom. Abraham was walking with them to send them off, (17) when Adonai said, “Should I keep secret from Abraham what I am about to do, (18) seeing that Abraham will most certainly become a great and mighty nation and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? (19) For I have made myself known to him so that he will command his sons and his household after him to keep the way of Adonai by doing righteousness and justice, so that Adonai may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.”

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- **Why did Abraham intercede for Sodom:**
 - One suggestion was his love for people.
 - He had rescued Lot from the kings that had conquered Sodom in Genesis 14.
 - He know Lot was there and was concerned for him.
 - Perhaps he hoped that Lot would have been a much greater influence on Sodom than he was.

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- **Abraham contrasted with Lot:**
 - Lot was attached to Sodom though he knew they were evil.
 - 2Pe 2:6-9 TLV He devastated the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, reducing them to ashes—making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly. (7) He rescued Lot, a righteous man deeply troubled by the shameless immorality of the wicked. (8) (For that righteous man, while living among them, was tormented in his righteous soul day after day by lawless deeds he saw and heard.) (9) Therefore the Lord certainly knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and how to keep the unrighteous being punished until the Day of Judgment—

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- **Abraham contrasted with Lot (cont 2):**

- Lot is an example of the end of the prosperity gospel.

- Gen 13:9-11 TLV Isn't the whole land before you? Please separate yourself from me. If to the left, then I'll go to the right, and if to the right, then I'll go to the left." (10) Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the whole area surrounding the Jordan was well watered in its entirety (before Adonai destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah)—like Adonai's garden, like the land of Egypt—till you come to Zoar. (11) So Lot chose for himself the whole area surrounding the Jordan. Lot journeyed to the east, and they separated from each other.

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- **Abraham contrasted with Lot (cont 3):**
 - It is not evil to desire material things, but that cannot what we value.
 - Mat 6:19-20 TLV “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. (20) But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in or steal.

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- **Abraham contrasted with Lot (cont 4):**
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- **Abraham contrasted with Lot (cont 5):**
 - It is not evil to desire material things, but that cannot what we value.
 - Heb 11:8-10 TLV By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place he was to receive as an inheritance. He went out, not knowing where he was going. (9) By faith he migrated to the land of promise as if it were foreign, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob—fellow heirs of the same promise. (10) For he was waiting for the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

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- **Lot's wife:**

- Here heart was still in Sodom:

- Gen 19:17 TLV When they brought them outside, one said, “Flee for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stop anywhere in the surrounding area! Escape to the hills, or else you’ll be swept away!”
- Gen 19:26 TLV But his wife looked behind him and she turned into a pillar of salt.

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- **Lot's wife (cont):**

- Here heart was still in Sodom:

- Luk 17:31-33 TLV In that day, the one who is on the roof, and his possessions in the house, must not go down to take them away. In the same way, the one who is in the field must not turn back. (32) Remember Lot's wife! (33) Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life will preserve it.

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- **The men of Sodom:**

- The story of Sodom is given as a lesson for us today.
- A men of Sodom's actions was a demonstration of what always eventually happens to those who pursue that same sin.

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- **The sin of Sodom:**

- Eze 16:48-50 TLV “As I live”—it is a declaration of Adonai—“your sister Sodom with her daughters have not done as you have done, you and your daughters. (49) Behold, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: pride, gluttony, and careless ease—so had she and her daughters—and she did not strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. (50) So they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I removed them when I saw it.

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- **The sin of Sodom (cont 2):**

- **Pride:**

- The quality or state of being proud; inordinate self-esteem; an unreasonable conceit of one's own superiority in talents, beauty, wealth, rank etc., which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve and often contempt of others.
(WikiDiff) (Noah Webster)

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- **The sin of Sodom (cont 3):**
 - Gluttony (fulness of bread):
 - Careless ease.
 - Did not strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.
 - Haughty:
 - Conveying in demeanor the assumption of superiority; disdainful, supercilious. (WikiDiff)
 - Committed abomination.

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- A society is very near gone when they don't even try to conceal their sin.
 - Isa 3:8-9 TLV For Jerusalem has stumbled, and Judah is fallen. For their tongue and their actions are against Adonai, defying the eyes of His glory. (9) The expression of their faces bears witness against them. They display their sin like Sodom—they do not hide it. Oy, their souls! For they brought evil on themselves.

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- A society is very near gone when they don't even try to conceal their sin (cont).
 - Pro 21:29 TLV A wicked man puts on a bold face, but the upright man considers his ways.
 - Jer 5:3 TLV Adonai, do Your eyes not look for faithfulness? You struck them, but they did not grieve. You disciplined them, but they refused correction. They made their faces harder than stone. They refused to return.

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- **God's solution:**

- 2Ch 7:14 TLV when My people, Over whom My Name is called, humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.
- Mat 18:2-5 TLV And He called a child to Himself, set him in the midst of them, (3) and said, “Amen, I tell you, unless you turn and become like children, you shall never enter the kingdom of heaven. (4) Whoever then shall humble himself like this child, this one is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (5) And whoever welcomes one such child in My name, welcomes Me.