FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD



GENESIS 13:10

"And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar."

LOT LIFTED HIS EYES
It started with a look.

HE SAW WHAT THE WORLD OFFERED
It looked good.

IT CAPTIVATED HIS HEART
It changed his choices.

WHAT WE LOOK AT CAN DETERMINE WHERE WE SETTLE.

STEP 1

LOT LOOKED TOWARD SODOM

GENESIS 13:10

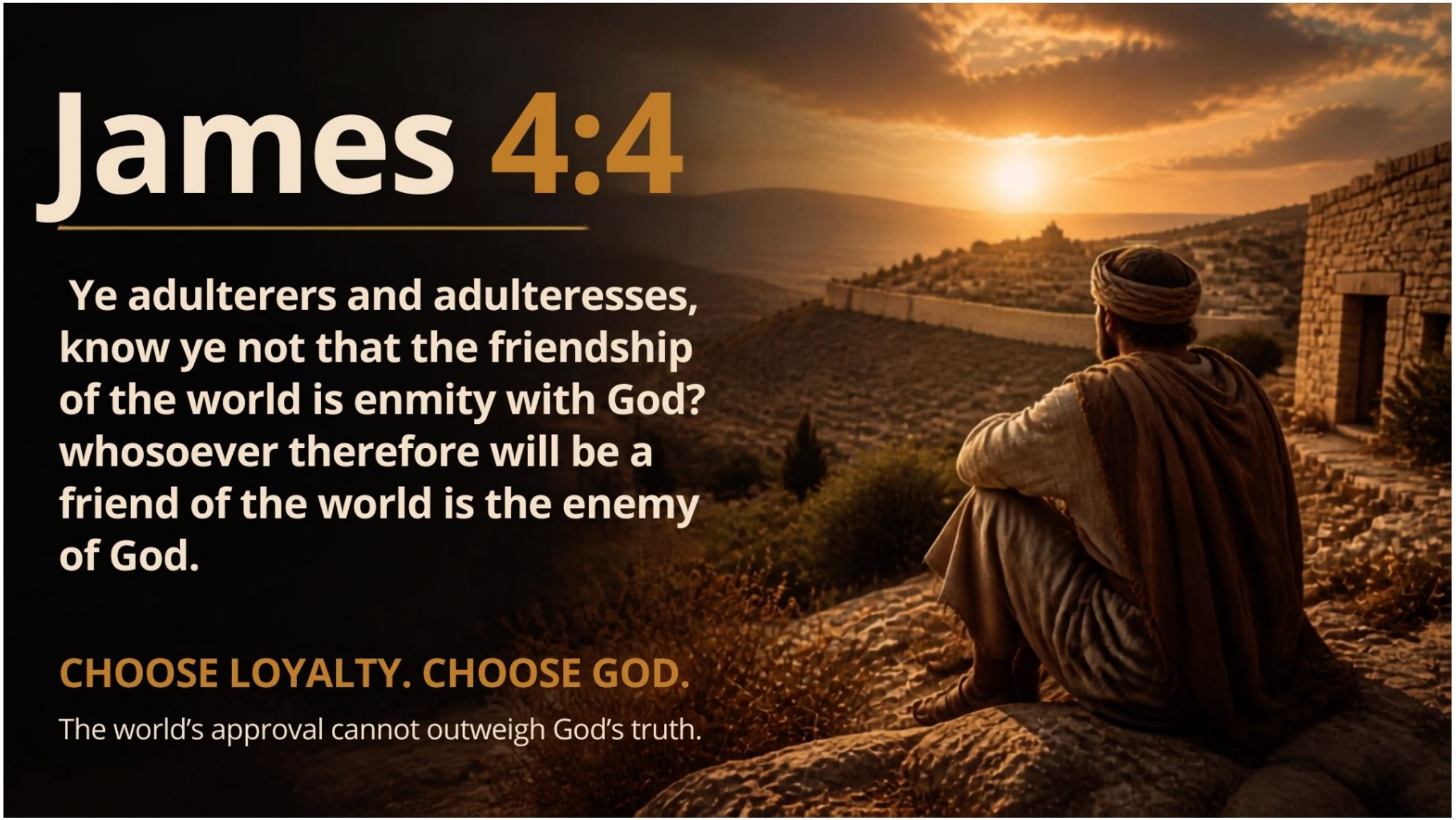
"And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar."

- Saw what looked attractive.
- Focused on prosperity.
- Ignored spiritual danger.

BIG IDEA:
Where your eyes linger, your heart often follows.



James 4:4



Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

CHOOSE LOYALTY. CHOOSE GOD.

The world’s approval cannot outweigh God’s truth.

STEP 2

LOT PITCHED HIS TENT TOWARD SODOM

GENESIS 13:12

“Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.”

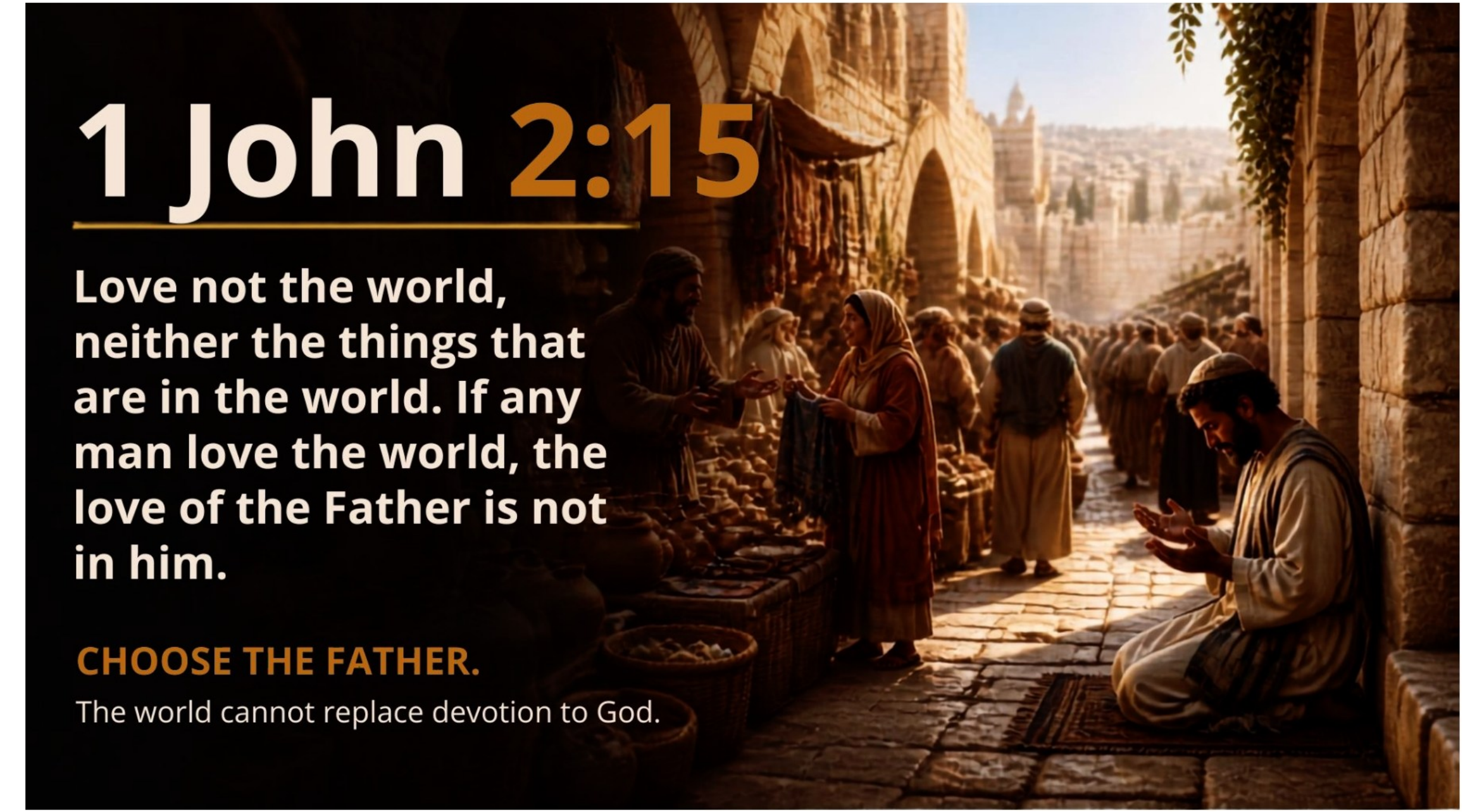
- Didn’t live there yet…
- But he faced that direction.
- Compromise always starts with small movements.

Closer than before… still a choice.



1 John 2:15

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.



CHOOSE THE FATHER.

The world cannot replace devotion to God.

STEP 3

LOT DWELT IN SODOM

GENESIS 14:12

"And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed."

- What began with looking...
- became living.
- Greed became bondage.

What captivates us eventually controls us.



Ephesians 2:2

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

FORMER WAYS CAN SHAPE OUR STEPS. Walk in the light of Christ.



STEP 4

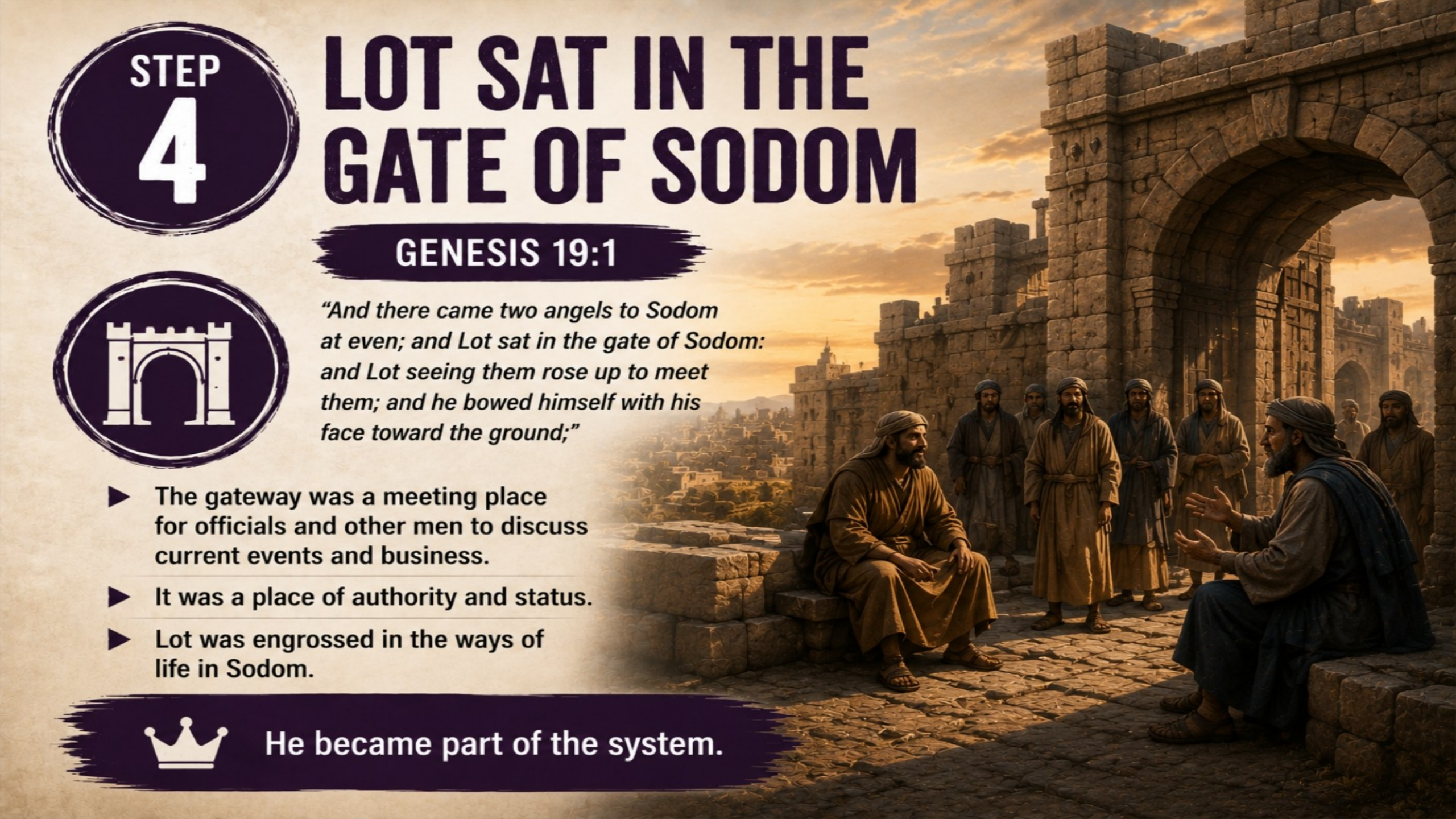
LOT SAT IN THE GATE OF SODOM

GENESIS 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;"

- The gateway was a meeting place for officials and other men to discuss current events and business.
- It was a place of authority and status.
- Lot was engrossed in the ways of life in Sodom.

He became part of the system.



STEP 5

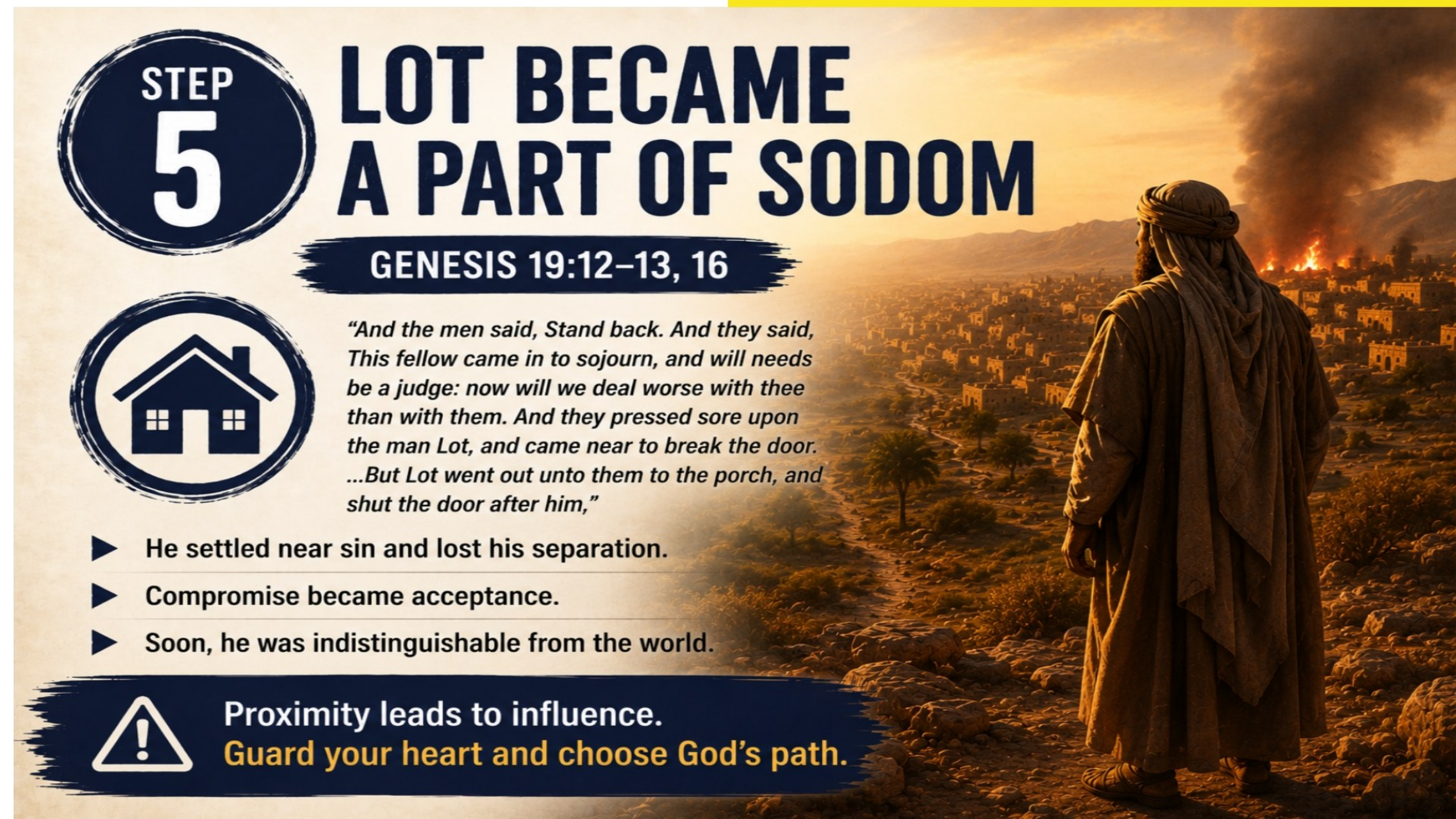
LOT BECAME A PART OF SODOM

GENESIS 19:12–13, 16

“And the men said, Stand back. And they said, This fellow came in to sojourn, and will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man Lot, and came near to break the door. …But Lot went out unto them to the porch, and shut the door after him,”

- He settled near sin and lost his separation.
- Compromise became acceptance.
- Soon, he was indistinguishable from the world.

Proximity leads to influence.
Guard your heart and choose God’s path.



THE DOWNWARD STEP OF LOT

GENESIS 13:10–13

"And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah..."
Genesis 13:10

IT BEGAN WITH A LOOK.
Lot lifted his eyes and looked toward Sodom.

IT GREW INTO A DESIRE.
He saw the richness of the land and wanted it for himself.

IT ENDED IN A DANGEROUS PLACE.
He settled near Sodom and slowly compromised his walk with God.



1. **HE LOOKED**
   Lot lifted his eyes toward Sodom.
2. **HE CHOSE**
   He chose the best land without considering others.
3. **HE SETTLED**
   He pitched his tent toward Sodom.
4. **HE BECAME INVOLVED**
   He moved closer and became influenced by Sodom's ways.
5. **HE SUFFERED THE CONSEQUENCES**
   He lost peace, safety, and saw the destruction.

ONE COMPROMISE CAN START A DOWNWARD PATH. GUARD YOUR HEART AND WHERE YOU SETTLE.

DON'T DESPISE THE SMALL STEP. IT CAN LEAD YOU FAR FROM GOD.

THE FINAL CHALLENGE

James 4:4

"Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

WILL YOU BE

A FRIEND OF GOD?

OR

A FRIEND OF THE WORLD?

Choose today whom you will follow.