

January 4, 2026

"The Uncompromised Welcome" – Richard Wallace

Genesis 19:1-29

1. What initially strikes you most about this passage? What makes you uncomfortable?
2. Compare Abraham's hospitality in Genesis 18 with Lot's hospitality in Genesis 19. What differences do you notice in their demeanor, motivation, and freedom?
  - a. Richard said, "How you respond to the vulnerable stranger reveals the actual state of your heart." Where have you seen this principle proven true—either in your own life or in others?
3. Lot offers his daughters to the mob – a horrifying betrayal. The sermon said, "Sodom has shaped his soul." How does long-term compromise distort our moral reasoning, even when we're trying to do good?
4. The sermon identifies Sodom's currency as exploitation, driven by "pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease" (Ezekiel 16:49-50). What's the "currency" of our North Shore context? What does our world value that we might unconsciously adopt, even when trying to do good?
5. The sermon traces Lot's trajectory: comfortable choices → status to protect → crossing lines → inability to move. Where do you see this pattern at work in your own life? What makes you feel spiritually "heavy"?
6. Genesis 19:16 says, "But Lot lingered." Have you experienced times when you knew what God was calling you to, but you couldn't move? What was weighing you down?
7. God saves Lot not because of Lot's righteousness, but because "God remembered Abraham" (Genesis 19:29). How does intercession work in this story? Why is this significant? The angels physically seize Lot by the hand and drag him out. How does this image of grace challenge our typical understanding of salvation?
8. Richard contrasts the angels at Sodom (who struck men with blindness and fled) with Jesus (who stayed and paid the price). How does Jesus transform the pattern of judgment in Genesis 19?
9. What's the difference between being "dragged from the city" (like Lot) versus being "transformed so you stop wanting to linger" (like Jesus offers)? How have you experienced this difference?

Richard challenged us: "This week, do one thing that proves you're not lingering anymore."

- What conversation have you been avoiding?
- What financial decision have you been negotiating with God about?
- Who have you been keeping at arm's length that God might be calling you to welcome?
- What has been slowly compromising you that you need to step away from?

Share one concrete step you'll take this week to prove you're free—not to earn your rescue, but to demonstrate that Sodom doesn't own you anymore.