



International Bible Lesson
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

God Judges with Justice and Mercy
April 7, 2019
Matthew 10:1-15

“Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town” (Matthew 10:15).

When Jesus sent His twelve disciples on their first missionary journey, He sent them first to the people they knew best because they had the same background, to the Jews. They all knew the commands to love the LORD God and their neighbors. Jesus gave His disciples the divine authority to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons; therefore, they could demonstrate that their message was from God and His Messiah, Jesus. When they went to a town, Jesus commanded them to seek a worthy home to stay in, where the family loved God and their neighbors. In a worthy home, they could tell how Jesus changed their lives and gave them peace with God, peace within themselves, and peace with many others. Unhappily, some homes and even whole towns were filled with people who disregarded and disobeyed the law of God. They did not seek to obey God but chose to do evil. They had no interest in living in the kingdom of heaven. If the disciples entered an unworthy home or town, Jesus commanded them to leave, put the experience behind them, and go on to help other people. Because God loves everyone, God makes judgements with justice and mercy.

Sodom and Gomorrah had only one preacher, Lot, who called the people to repent. Through the words and actions of Jesus' disciples, God demonstrated His love and willingness to forgive sinners. Therefore, in the coming judgment, those who preferred sin and rejected God's love and offer of forgiveness will suffer more than those from Sodom and Gomorrah.

Thinking Further

1. What kind of authority did Jesus give to His disciples?
2. Why do you think giving them this authority was important?
3. Why do you think Jesus told them to go only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel?
4. What were the disciples not to acquire as they preached about Jesus? Why do you think Jesus commanded them to avoid doing this?
5. What would you consider a worthy house or family to be, then and now?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.
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