

Come To The Quiet

By: Jim Hohnberger

A question we must all ask ourselves is; does where we live have a significant impact upon our mental, physical and spiritual health and welfare? I believe it does and also believe it can be easily seen from common sense, present day facts, and biblical example.

Common sense, which I think is uncommon now a days, would lead us to ask questions such as this; If the city environment is the healthiest for us, why then do so many seek to escape it for their weekends, holidays and vacations? I live in north-western Montana where my home looks out on Glacier National park. Last year about 2.5 million visitors passed through this crown of the continent with its diverse wildlife, crystal clear mountain lakes and streams and awesome snow covered majestic peaks. It is here that millions come every year to find that rest, solitude and tranquility so absent in the city life. All year long the stress, tension, fatigue, rush and scurry builds and it is places like this that the masses of mankind seek to unwind in.

How much more conducive to their mental, physical and spiritual well being would it be for

these families, if they would find a few quiet country acres, thirty or forty minutes from the hustle and bustle of the city and there establish their island of refuge and rest. Perhaps just 4 or 5 acres with some trees, a little garden and some room to breathe free. Here the children would be free from the uncontrollable neighborhood associations which prove detrimental to their character development. Here they would be free to explore the mysteries of nature and nature's God versus the worldliness and evils of the city. Here they would be shielded from temptation and be trained and educated for usefulness.

In the city the children, having nothing to do when not in school, obtain a street education. From worldly associates they acquire habits of vice that may take a lifetime to undo. All of us have seen the results of such associations, but few of us realize the importance of shunning, so far as possible all associations unfriendly to our and our children's physical, mental and spiritual well being.

I believe it has become self evident, the world over, that cities have become hotbeds of vice.

On every hand are the sights and sounds and tastes of evil. Everywhere are the enticements to sensuality and dissipation. There is no question that the tide of corruption and crime is swelling to unprecedented levels. Every day brings the news of violence, robberies, murders, suicides and crimes unnamable.

While on a recent journey I had the opportunity to visit my home town a relatively small city of 60,000. Here my mother cautioned me not to allow my wife to go to the grocery store alone, especially at night, nor to allow my two boys to walk around the block unchaperoned. Why? Because women and children had been abducted just a few blocks from where I had been raised. How absurd I thought. I used to walk these streets unencumbered as a youth growing up. But not any more, not even in this middle class neighborhood of my youth.

In comparison to a country setting, life in the cities, even small ones, is false and artificial. There is an intense, overwhelming passion for money getting, a continuous whirl of excitement and pleasure seeking, a thirst for display, luxury and extravagance, all these are forces that, with the great majority of mankind, are turning the mind from life's true purpose. They have opened the door to a thousand evils and upon our youth and even us adults they have an almost irresistible power.

What of the physical surroundings in the cities? Are they not a peril to health? There is a constant liability to contact with disease, a definite prevalence of foul, smelly air, not to mention the heavily treated, chemically treated, impure water.

It was certainly not God's purpose that His people should be crowded into cities, huddled together in homes and apartment complexes like sardines. No, in the beginning God placed our first parents, Adam and Eve, amidst the beautiful sights and sounds of nature. The same as He desires us to live in today. My wife and I have found that the more nearly we come into harmony with God's original plan of life, the more favorable it has been for us to secure health of body, and mind, and soul for us and our two teenage boys. What a blessing it has been for us in moving to our country setting.

Here we have cut off every influence and sundered every tie that would imperil the two precious souls committed to our care. Here it is that we are bringing them up in the admonition and instruction of the Lord. Here it is that their mother and father work together in a home schooling setting to train and educate them for true usefulness. And when not being schooled in the academics, you will find them being trained in all the household tasks as cooking, cleaning and everyday maintenance. There are also duties such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical, automobile mechanics and gardening.

For recreation you will find them involved in the quiet natural non-competitive sports such as, cross country skiing, back packing, mountain climbing, caving, camping, canoeing, hiking, biking, repelling, wild life photography, all with a moral-spiritual emphasis. Such a life of natural wholesome adventure awaits them. How truly invigorating this is to their overall development. This is how God would have it, for in the beginning, "God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had

formed." Genesis 2:8. God is again entreating all to, "**come to the quiet**".

In the book of Genesis we also find the parallel of two men's lives; Abraham and Lot. See Genesis chapters 12-19. Here we find God calling Abraham to leave the influence of his idolatrous countrymen to go dwell in the land of Canaan. WE are told that Lot went with him, but instead of dwelling in the land of Canaan, Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, "and Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom." Genesis 13:12. But friends, the men of Sodom were wicked and the wickedness of that city was the downfall of Lot's family. The city got so wicked that God saw it necessary to destroy it. But God, in His great mercy desired to save Lot and his family and sent angels to rescue them. WE find Lot pleading with his daughters, "up, get you out of this place, for the Lord will destroy this city." Genesis 19:14. But his own daughters and sons-in-law mocked him. They had grown too accustomed to the evil of Sodom. Friends, God is saying to us again today, "up, get you out of these places." Will you listen? Will you for the welfare of your children

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and spouse, escape these centers of crime? Or are you going to laugh as did Lot's children and lose your life there? Ladies, are you going to mourn over having to leave these places, as did Lot's wife? Remember, "his wife looked back from behind him and she became a pillar of salt." Gen 19:26. Her heart was still in Sodom, she still longed for the shopping malls, the extravagance, the chitter chatter and the supposed ease of that city.

Lot, as some today, had justified living in Sodom so as to evangelize it. But friends, how effective was Lot's evangelism? Not even 10 "righteous" persons could be found in Sodom. Lot not only failed at evangelizing Sodom, but friends Sodom evangelized and destroyed his family.

Before it's too late let us gather our families out of the wicked influences of the cities and as Abraham raise them a safe distance from the Sodoms of today. The results are clearly recorded in scripture for us today. When Lot entered Sodom, he fully intended to keep himself from the iniquity. But he failed, miserably failed. Lot's only posterity were the two tribes, the Moabites and the Ammonites, which came from incest with his only two daughters that escaped Sodom with him. Two vile, idolatrous tribes, that rebelled against God. How terrible were the results that followed, one unwise step!

Yet Lot could have preserved his family and wife from many evils, had he not made his abode in the city, such as Abraham. All that Lot and his family did in Sodom could have been done by them, even if they had lived a great distance away from the city. Abraham walked with God, and yet he did not live in the midst of any city, polluted with every kind of violence and wickedness, as did Lot in Sodom.

I'd like to share a statement from a letter my wife and I received recently, it reads as follows; ... "We won't be going places much, because even now traffic is terrific. Lots of accidents. Later it will even be worse. papers are **loaded** with every kind of misdemeanors, drugs, political corruption, shootings, unsolved mur-

ders, drug abuses. It's bad, bad and seems worse because **everything** is made public, not a thing is hushed up. In (another state) there's as much and more but you only hear half of what's going on. That's what is amazing here. Police, sirens, helicopters all day long, really weird, **but I'm getting used to it**. Even with the security guards it's a testy deal, not only at night but broad day light."

"**But I'm getting used to it.**" I'm afraid that's the story of most, they've gotten used to it. But God is saying to us all, "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, (country setting as God has directed) lest thou be consumed." Genesis 19:17.

Friends, let us not argue with the plain facts, let us use uncommon sense and let us learn from Lot's mistake and avail ourselves of God's appointed means, and get away from the cities to save our families, before it's too late. Won't you, "**come to the quiet**"?

Power for Living

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