

REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE

TEXT: *Luke 17:32: Remember Lot's wife*

In the midst of a most solemn discourse on the signs of the end of the age and of the second coming of Christ, Jesus injects these strange words, “**Remember Lot's wife.**” Over 3,000 years ago, she turned into a pillar of salt. Jesus warns us not to become entangled with the world, but to be separated from worldly pleasures and friendships, for these will choke the good seed of the Word, and will also wean us away from Christ.

Jesus told us the end time would be just like the days of Lot and his wife, and that He would be revealed when conditions became parallel to that.

Sodom was given over to wickedness and to unlawful deeds. Although Lot detached himself from it all and was aggravated with their rotten talk and disgusted with their corrupt lives, his wife just could not break connections. Lot was *in* the city but not *of* it. His wife revealed by her backward look that Sodom was in *her*.

We are to be in the world but not of it. Jesus prayed that God would not take us out of the world, but would keep us from its evils. If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him.

2 Timothy 4:10: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.

The world is the enemy of spirituality. Safety is not in the world, but in Christ.

Lot's wife becomes a shocking piece of statuary, staring sightless eyes back toward the city which was her paradise; but to God, it was fit only for cinders. Though she had left the city she still desired it, she looked back and lost it — and her life, also. There she stands — an eternal warning to those who would live after the world and reject the warnings of God's Word.

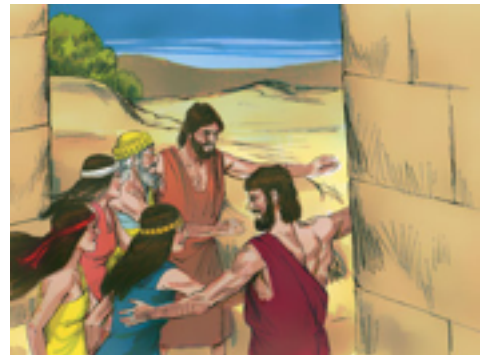


Jesus gave the message that this pillar of salt is to be remembered by all the generations to come. She had moved into Sodom, and

Sodom had moved into her. Its disgusting rottenness was a stench in the nostrils of decency; yet she fell in love with it.

Oh, think of the love of God! When the ruin of Sodom was impending, when ghastly death was rattling the latch of her door, God sent His messengers to warn her and her family. Certainly this woman could not claim she did not have a fair chance. She was told in most passionate earnestness of the doom that was certain to come. She was made to understand also that there was one way of escape.

In spite of the warnings and of the angels literally dragging them out of the city, she perished, as did all the dwellers of the city. So differently was she judged than the rest of the city; yet, nevertheless, she sealed her own doom by willful disobedience. Her All was in the city — every possession, everything she held dear; and it drew her back. Brother, if your All is in this life, when you leave you have lost everything. It is certain we cannot stay here always and must go at the most uncertain time. We hold no mortgage on life to dictate the terms of our residing in this tabernacle of flesh.



How painful the words recorded in **Genesis 19:16**:

And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

How many of us have lingered until the children have grown up in a Christ-less home and gone out into a Christ-less world, and then we are finally awakened and give them the messages of impending doom, and they take it as an idle tale. God's message is to Remember Lot's wife.

She looked back. He that puts his hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for the Kingdom. What did her backward look indicate? — a divided heart. She still loved Sodom. Though her feet were going away from it, she still had her heart in it. Jesus speaks much about a divided heart, and James of a double mind, and Elijah about halting between opinions.

Matthew 12:34: O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

James 1:8: A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

1 Kings 18:21: And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.



Lot's wife looked back from behind; it does not take one who is undecided long to fall behind. She is dragging her feet, sulking and pouting, and doesn't want to go. Little fear of the coming doom helped her move just outside the city, but fear is not the prevailing motive to flee the wrath to come. It so happens when fear leaves, so do the steps leave the paths of righteousness. An undecided mind with a joyless heart made the steps become slower, and she could hardly resist looking back.

This is the condition of mind that the devil will work on the most. He used this on Eve and got her into the notion of becoming a god, and she became a devil. The serpent told her to look on the fruit and she looked, lusted, and lost everything.

Achan looked, coveted, and took — and lost everything.

The devil pumped Lot's wife with doubts — *Surely God will not bring fire and brimstone on this beautiful city. It is all a joke and ridiculous. Look for yourself and see it has not come.*



Remember Lot's wife and learn the warning lesson that it does not pay to listen to the lying devil.

The warning of the coming judgment on this world, and the very soon Coming of Jesus, is revealing the true character of everyone. Lot's wife revealed — by her backward look — the state of her heart.

God crystallized her character by turning her body into a pillar of salt, showing graphically the fatal act of looking back at a sin-cursed world. Thus, God has given us a definite aid to the memory by providing an object lesson in the form of a statue.

Luke 12:34: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:20: But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven.

Set your affections on things above and not in things of the earth. Are you looking for a city *whose builder and maker is God?*

Will you perish in your sins although you have been warned of the wrath to come? She perished although she made some effort to be saved. Partly believing the message, she ran a while but stopped short of salvation. She perished although she made some effort through committing one sin — the awful sin of unbelief.

The Lot family became mingled and mixed with the wicked, godless people of this city, whose wickedness reached unto high Heaven, rather than separating themselves from them. God's call to His children is recorded in:

2 Corinthians 6:17: Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

Abstain from all appearance of evil. Christians must not pitch their tents (we are pilgrims — with citizenship is in Heaven, from whence we look for the Lord Jesus). If we pitch toward Sodom, we will soon move in, for the spirit of compromise is in every human heart. How can a child of God wink at sin and condone lewdness of the world from which God has delivered him? This is an evident sign of being lukewarm which God hates.



There are too many softies in our churches today who think we should not speak out against worldly pleasures and sinful practices, but just let them all pass without protest for there is nothing, they say, we can do to stop it or to change it. God holds us accountable for what we permit, wink at, or pass over. We are the salt of the world, a light unto the lost, to show them the way Home to God. We are not to be mere reformers, but to declare unto the unregenerate the new birth through our Lord Jesus Christ, and nothing short of this will crucify me unto the world and the world unto me.

There must be a starting point to meet and love the Lord Jesus — and for His sake and because we love Him we will follow in His steps and remember what He prayed in **John 17:15:**

I pray not that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil.

But whenever you and I willfully play with fire and go to the forbidden places and be enticed, we are bound to get burned.

Listen to the words of Jesus in this End of the Age message: ***“Remember Lot’s wife.”*** What an admonition and warning to all women and girls of all ages. She was the wife of a prominent man and social elite. She was extremely foolish and worldly minded.

Mark 8:36-37:

³⁶ For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

³⁷ Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Colossians 3:2: Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Their children married unsaved men without warning or protest, and often permitted them to associate with questionable and worldly young people. They all perished in Sodom. They lived in sin and died in their sins. When they were warned to flee from Sodom, they mocked and scoffed at the urgent pleas.

The family started out with a spiritual background, but it is not the beginning that counts as much as the kind of ending. All ended in tragedy and disgrace when the way of the world was chosen. We cannot serve God and mammon.

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