

REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE (PART 2)

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The short, three-word verse of Luke 17:32 is powerful in its meaning: “*Remember Lot’s wife.*” These words were spoken by Jesus Christ in reference to the woman who was turned into “a pillar of salt” in Genesis 19:26. God’s angels had led Lot, his wife, and their two youngest daughters out of Sodom, and commanded them to “look not behind” as they left. Lot’s wife disobeyed this commandment when the Lord rained fire and brimstone on those wicked cities, and she paid the price. Christ is using what happened to Lot’s wife as a warning and teaching us to remember the lessons that are taught by what happened to her.

Judgment to come

All Christians should pay attention to the many lessons taught by what happened to Lot’s wife and family. One great lesson is that “*the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished*” (2 Pet 2:9). What happened to Sodom and Gomorrha teaches that point: “And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly” (2 Pet 2:6). Jude 7 also says, “Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” How our world has forgotten the Creator’s message about His view of wicked and immoral behavior and how He will judge and punish all who engage in it! Even if our own Supreme Court calls us “bigots” for believing in God and His word, and opposing sinful behavior like fornication and homosexuality, it does not change God’s truth. As Romans 3:4 says, “*Let God be true, but every man a liar.*” God will bring this world into judgment (Acts 17:31; Heb 9:27).

Seek ye first

Another lesson from what happened to Lot’s family relates to the spiritual impact that every decision we make may have upon ourselves, our families, and others. Choosing a spouse, a vocation,

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where we live, who we allow our children to associate with, what congregation we belong to, etc. All of these choices we make have the potential for longlasting, even eternal effects. Consider the ramifications of Lot's decision to move his family to Sodom! He was literally the only one who was left unspotted by the wickedness of the place he lived in. Let us always do everything for the sake of God's kingdom and righteousness, not for any other reason (Matt 6:33; 2 Cor 5:14-15; Col 3:17; 1 Pet 4:2). Let us also practice pure and undefiled religion, and keep ourselves (and as much as possible, our families and others) unspotted from this world (Jas 1:27).

The price of loving this world

Finally, 1 John 2:15 says, "*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*" (see also Luke 8:14; 12:13-34; 16:13-15; Jas 4:4). We are to "look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor 4:18). In Luke 17:22-36, Jesus warns us to be prepared for his return. He will come in flaming fire to take vengeance on all those who do not know God and have not obeyed the gospel (2 Thes 1:7-10). If we are alive on that day when he comes, our mind had better not be on the stuff in our house. If that is where our treasure and heart are (Matt 6:21; Luke 12:34), then we will be among those who are the recipients of the Lord's vengeance on that day. He tells us not to be mindful of what we are about to leave behind. When Sodom was destroyed, Lot's wife was clearly mindful of what she was leaving behind in that wicked place. She violated the angels' command, looked back, and was destroyed. Therefore, in Luke 17:32, Jesus says, "*Remember Lot's wife.*" We must never look back longingly at the corruption of this world that we have left behind. If we look back, we are not fit for the kingdom of God (Luke 9:62). Jesus concludes his warning in Luke 17:33: "*Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it, and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.*"