

A Woman to Remember

Luke 17:22-32 (Text is vs 32)

Introduction:

1. There are few warnings in Scripture more solemn than the one that we see here. The Lord Jesus Christ tells us to, "Remember Lot's wife."
2. Lot's wife was a professor of religion; her husband was a "righteous man" (2 Pet. 2:8).
 - a. She left Sodom with him on the day when Sodom was destroyed; she looked back toward the city from behind her husband, against God's express command; she was struck dead at once and turned into a pillar of salt.
 - b. The Master holds her up as a beacon to us - "Remember Lot's wife."
3. It is a solemn warning, when we think of the person Jesus names.
 - a. He does not bid us remember Abraham or Isaac or Jacob or Sarah or Hannah or Ruth.
 - b. No, He singles out one whose soul was lost forever.
4. It is a solemn warning, when we consider the subject Jesus is upon.
 - a. He is speaking of His own second coming to judge the world
 - b. He is describing the dreadful state of unreadiness in which many will be found.
 - c. The last days are on His mind when He says, "Remember Lot's wife."
5. It is a solemn warning, when we think of those to whom it was 1st given.
 - a. The Lord Jesus was speaking to His disciples
 - b. He was not addressing the scribes and Pharisees, who hated Him, but Peter, James and John and many others who loved Him
 - c. Yet even to them He thinks it good to address a caution.
 - d. Even to them He says, "Remember Lot's wife."
7. Let us examine the lessons which Lot's wife is meant to teach us.
 - a. Her story is full of useful instruction
 - b. The last days are upon us; the second coming of the Lord Jesus draws near; the danger of worldliness is yearly increasing among believers
 - c. More than ever, we need to be familiar with the story of Lot's wife.
9. Today, let us consider.....
 - a. The religious privileges Lot's wife enjoyed
 - b. The particular sin she committed
 - c. The judgment which God inflicted upon her

I. Remember Her Religious Privileges

A. Lot's Wife Had Many Spiritual Privileges

1. Her Close Association with Abraham and Lot
 - a) *In the days of Abraham / Lot, true saving religion was scarce*
 - (1) There were no Bibles, no ministers, no churches, no tracts, no missionaries.
 - (2) The knowledge of God was confined to a few favored families; the greater part of the inhabitants of the world were living in darkness, ignorance, superstition and sin.
 - b) *Yet Lot's wife had a believer for her husband*
 - c) *She had Abraham, father of the faithful, for her uncle by marriage*
 - d) *The faith, the knowledge and the prayers of these two righteous men could have been no secret to her.*
 - e) *When Abram first received the promises, was she there?*
 - f) *When Abraham / Lot erected an altar and worshipped God, she was there*
 - g) *When Abraham and his men rescued Lot and his wife from captivity, she was there*
 - h) *When Melchizedek, king of Salem, came forth to meet Abraham with bread and wine, she was there.*
 - i) *When the angels came to Sodom and warned her husband to flee, she saw them; when they took them by the hand and led them out of the city, she was one of those whom they helped to escape.*
 - j) *These were no small privileges.*
2. Yet these advantages did not effect the heart of Lot's wife
 - a) *She lived and died unrepentant and unbelieving*
 - b) *The eyes of her understanding were never opened*
 - c) *Her conscience was never really aroused and quickened*
 - d) *Her will was never really brought into a state of obedience to God*
3. She did as others did around her in Lot's house
 - a) *She conformed to her husband's ways*
 - b) *She did not oppose his religion*
 - c) *But all this time her heart was wrong in the sight of God.*
 - d) *The world was in her heart, and her heart was in the world.*
 - e) *In this state she lived, and in this state she died.*

B. Religious Privileges Will Save No One's Soul

- There is much to learn here
 - Many today are like Lot's wife
1. You can have all the religious privileges and still be lost
 2. You may have been raised in a fine Christian home
 - a) *Your parents loved you and made sure that you were in God's house every time the doors were opened*
 - b) *Perhaps you have a godly husband or wife – a companion who walks with God*

- c) *Maybe you are a member of a fine, Bible-believing, Bible-preaching, God-honoring church*
- d) *You have a pastor who cares deeply for you and your spiritual condition*
- 3. All this may be, and yet you yourself may remain unconverted, and at last be lost forever.
- 4. Oh be not deceived dear lost person
 - a) *Joab was David's captain*
 - b) *Gehazi was Elisha's servant*
 - c) *Demas was Paul's companion*
 - d) *Judas Iscariot was Christ's disciple*
 - e) *Lot had a worldly unbelieving wife.*
 - f) *These all died in their sins in spite of their knowledge, warnings and opportunities*
- 5. Value religious privileges, but do not rest entirely upon them.
- 6. Spiritual privileges do not take the place of saving faith in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.
- 7. Oh members of HBC
 - a) *You sat for years under the teaching / preaching of Bro. Parks*
 - b) *He has expounded God's Word and taught you the great doctrines of God*
 - c) *You saw his godly example and his godly life*
 - d) *But what do you have in your heart? Are you saved?*
 - e) *If not, you are no better than Lot's wife*

II. Remember the Sin Which She Committed

- The sin which Lot's wife committed is given by the Holy Spirit in few and simple words: "She looked back from behind her husband, and she became a pillar of salt."
- We are told no more than this.
- The sum and substance of her transgression lies in these three words: "She looked back."

A. It Seemed Like a Small Thing

1. That look was a little thing, but it revealed the true character of Lot's wife.
2. Little things will often show the state of a man's mind even better than great ones
3. Sometimes little symptoms are often the signs of deadly and incurable diseases.
4. A crack in a wall may appear to be a little thing when the reality is that the entire foundation is failing
5. In Bible days, a small white spot might indicate leprosy

B. Her Sin Was a Disobedient Act

1. That look was a little thing, but it told of disobedience in Lot's wife.
2. The command of the angel was straight and unmistakable: "Look not behind you" (Gen. 19:17).
3. This command Lot's wife refused to obey.
4. The Holy Spirit says that "to obey is better than sacrifice," and that "rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft" (1 Sam. 15:22, 23).
5. When God speaks plainly by His Word, or by His messengers, man's duty is clear.

C. Her Sin Was an Unbelieving Act

1. That look was a little thing, but it told of proud unbelief in Lot's wife.
2. She seemed to doubt whether God was really going to destroy Sodom.
3. She did not sense any danger or any need for such a hasty flight from Sodom.
4. But without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6).
5. The moment anyone begins to think he knows better than God and that God does not mean anything when He threatens, his soul is in great danger.

D. Her Sin Revealed a Secret Love for the World

1. That look was a little thing, but it told of secret love of the world in Lot's wife.
2. Her heart was in Sodom, though her body was outside.
3. She had left her affections behind when she fled from her home.
4. Her eye turned to the place where her treasure was.
5. "The friendship of the world is enmity with God" (James 4:4).
6. "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15).
7. Beware, dear Christian of worldliness
 - a) *Now, more than ever, we need to heed the warnings about worldliness*
 - b) *"Remember the sin of Lot's wife."*
 - (1) She was no murderer, no adulterer, no thief; but she was a professor of religion, and she looked back.
 - c) *There are thousands who run well for a season and seem to be on their way to heaven, but by and by give up the race and turn their backs on Christ altogether.*
 - d) *They have not found the Bible to be untrue*
 - e) *Have they found the Lord Jesus fail to keep His word? No, not at all.*
 - f) *They are infected with the love of this world.*
8. With the Savior, I say to you today, "Remember Lot's wife."

E. Her Sin Reminds Us that Many Begin Well But Do Not Finish Well

1. How many children of religious families begin well and end poorly
 - a) *They grew up in our Sunday Schools*
 - b) *They were taught the Word of God and repeated memory verses*
 - c) *They made professions of faith at early ages*
 - d) *But alas, the boy becomes a young man and his love for spiritual things wanes*
 - e) *He is now out of church and living like an unbeliever*
 - f) *They are just like Lot's wife – they look back*
2. How many young married couples begin so well
 - a) *They are faithful in church*
 - b) *They teach Sunday School classes and sing in the choir.*
 - c) *Then the family begins to grow and the leaven of worldliness creeps in*
 - d) *Spiritual things are all forgotten – laid aside*
 - e) *They walk in the steps of Lot's wife – they look back*

III. Remember the Judgment That She Received

- The Scripture describes the end of Lot's wife in few and simple words.
 - It is written that "she looked back and became a pillar of salt."
 - A miracle was wrought to execute God's judgment on this guilty woman.
 - The same almighty hand which first gave her life took that life away in the twinkling of an eye.
1. That was a fearful end for a soul
 - a) *To die at any time is a solemn thing.*
 - b) *But to die suddenly and in a moment, in the very act of sin*
 - c) *To die in full health and strength*
 - d) *To die by the direct interposition of an angry God—this is fearful indeed.*
 - e) *Yet this was the end of Lot's wife.*
 2. That was a hopeless end for a soul
 - a) *We try to persuade ourselves that our poor departed friend may have repented unto salvation at the last moment*
 - b) *We call to mind God's mercies; we remember the Spirit's power; we think on the case of the penitent thief; we whisper to ourselves that saving work may have gone on even on that dying bed which the dying person had not strength to tell.*
 - c) *But Lot's wife was cut down in the very act of sin.*
 - d) *She had not a moment's time for thought or prayer.*
 - e) *Such was the end of Lot's wife. It was a hopeless end. She went to hell.*

3. Settle it firmly in your mind that the same Bible which teaches that God in mercy and compassion sent Christ to die for sinners
4. Does also teach that God hates sin and must, from His very nature, punish all who cleave to sin or refuse the salvation He has provided.
5. The very same chapter which declares, "God so loved the world," declares also, that "the wrath of God abides" on the unbeliever (John 3:16, 36).

Conclusion:

1. Are you lukewarm, and cold in your Christianity? Remember Lot's wife
2. Are you trying to serve two masters - both with God and mammon.
3. Are you secretly cherishing some besetting sin? Do you have some darling evil habit which you cannot tear from their heart.
4. Are you resting on religious privileges?
 - a. Trusting your church attendance
 - b. Thinking that Bible reading will save you
 - c. Hoping that your baptism will save you?
 - d. Remember Lot's wife
5. Are you trusting that you will have a deathbed repentance?
 - a. You think that when your last illness comes, you will have time to repent and lay hold on Christ and go out of the world pardoned, sanctified and meet for heaven.
 - b. Don't forget that people often die very suddenly and that, as they
 - c. "Take care: remember Lot's wife."
6. Do you attend our church?
 - a. You hear the truth Sunday after Sunday from a SS teacher and pastor
 - b. Sermon after sermon rings in your ears.
 - c. Month after month you are invited to repent, to believe, to come to Christ and to be saved.
 - d. **(2Pet 1:10) Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure...**
 - e. I say to you today, "Take care: remember Lot's wife."