

Remember Lot's Wife

Introduction. Have you ever wondered what it would be like if we had no memory? Aristotle called memory the "scribe of the soul." It records and stores information and events in our lives that are so important to us. It is hard to imagine what life would be like if we could not remember all of the good and bad times and instruction, education, or exhortation. Our memories really do mold our personality.

In Luke 17:32, Jesus played upon this important function of memory when He warned His disciples to "Remember Lot's wife." This very vivid illustration was used to warn against looking back with yearning after what has been left behind. It calls something to our mind. In vss. 28-32, Jesus used the example of Lot to describe His coming in judgment on Jerusalem.

The judgment of the Lord is something to remember (Psalm 9:7; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Revelation 2:5; 3:3), therefore remember the warning He posed to His disciples. Lot's wife teaches us very valuable lessons about God and about ourselves.

I. ***Because God Tried To Save Her (Genesis 19:15-16)***

- A. No one could blame God for not trying with Lot's wife and his family. He was willing to send two angels and help them leave before He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. If anyone ever went the "second mile" with Lot and his family, it was the Lord.
- B. By the end of the 18th century, a belief called deism had become a dominant religious attitude among upper-class Americans.
 1. The first three presidents of the United States, as is evidenced in their correspondence, held deistic convictions. The deist acknowledges that God exists, and even grants that God created the Universe and its inhabitants. Deism insists that since His initial miraculous act of creation, God has had nothing whatsoever to do with either the Universe or mankind.
 2. The basic idea behind deism often is discussed via the analogy of a clock, the idea being that God created the clock, wound it up and then walked away to leave it operating on its own.
- C. God is not unconcerned about His creation (Genesis 48:16; 1 Samuel 7:12; Psalm 28:7; Isaiah 63:9; Hebrews 13:5-6). No matter how strong we think we are, we must concede that we are weak (Romans 7:18-19). But in spite of our sinfulness (Romans 3:23), God sent help (Romans 5:6).
- D. We needed redeeming from spiritual destruction, and the redemption we enjoy was not purchased with silver or gold (1 Peter 1:18-19; cf. Isaiah 52:3; 55:1), but with Christ's blood (Mark 10:45; 1 Peter 1:18-19). The redemption of God accomplishes several purposes.

1. Justification (Romans 3:24).
 2. Reconciliation (Romans 5:11; Colossians 1:20).
 3. Forgiveness (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 9:15).
 4. Deliverance from bondage (John 8:34-36; Romans 6:6-7, 16-18, 22; Titus 2:11-14).
 5. Deliverance from the law (Romans 6:14; Galatians 3:3; 4:4-7; 5:1, 13).
 6. Deliverance from futility of life (1 Peter 1:18).
- E. If we are sinners in need of salvation, God provides help. If we are Christians lost in a world bigger than we can handle, God provides help. God helped Lot's wife and He will help us.

II. ***Because Her Worldliness Cause Her To Fail (Genesis 19:25-26)***

- A. Despite all the efforts which had been made to save her, she was still lost because she just could not quite break the ties with her world.
- B. Worldliness is like a cancer to Christians. We lose so many good people because they are too tied up with the world. Several in the Bible were ruined by worldliness: Achan (Joshua 7:21), Judas (John 12:6), Simon (Acts 8:18-19), and Demas (2 Timothy 4:10).
- C. The New Testament writers warned about worldliness (James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17). A ship will not sink in the water unless the water manages to enter the ship. It is the same with a child of God. We can be fine living in this world as long as we do not get too close to the world.
- D. Worldliness can be generated by recreation, too much work, relaxed morals, or greedy for the world's goods. It produces weakness, less attendance, not paying attention in the assemblies, and finally falling away. Sadly, God and the scriptures get pushed out of the way and out of the life.
- E. The Bible gives several ways to deal with worldliness.
 1. Be on guard against it (Luke 21:34).
 2. Do not be conformed to this world or age (Romans 12:2; 1 Peter 1:14).
 3. Remember you are crucified to the world (Galatians 6:14; 1 Peter 4:1-3).
 4. Set your mind on heavenly realities (Colossians 3:1-2).
 5. Avoid unnecessary entanglement with the affairs of life (2 Timothy 2:4).
 6. Overcome the world through the power of God and faith in Christ (1 John 4:4; 5:4-5).
- F. Unfortunately, there is going to be a Lot's wife or a Judas everywhere we go. People who almost made it because they held on to God, but yet slipped back into the world (Matthew 13:22; James 5:1-5).

G. If you could solve the problem of worldliness in a congregation, you would have a strong group. When people tell you that they have a good group, do you know what they are saying? They are telling you that these people have defeated worldliness. The treasures in heaven will be ours if we can beat this mortal enemy (Matthew 6:19-21).

Conclusion. Lot's wife had so much going for her, but she did not make it. We are a people who have just about everything, but we still cannot handle it. Remember that God was there helping her and trying to save her, but she ultimately gave in and lost because her heart was not in the right place. Too much held her in Sodom and Gomorrah.

Worldliness will bring us nothing but grief in the end. A strong group of dedicated servants of God who have pulled themselves back from the world are the happiest and most blessed group of people on the earth. Today, we offer you the chance to become one of that number. Remember Lot's wife, for the judgment is coming (2 Corinthians 5:10-11).