

LEARNING FROM LOT'S WIFE

INTRODUCTION

Abraham is mentioned numerous times in the Bible, and his nephew Lot is also mentioned a number of times, especially in Genesis 13-19. Abraham has a special future in God's arrangements for mankind, as the promised "seed" for salvation came through him, and he is featured as being in charge of the Hadean realm in Luke 16. Now, let's take a careful look at their lives as portrayed in Genesis 13-19. (Review carefully).

Now note references to Lot in the NT. Lk.17:28,29,32; 2Pet.2:6-8; cf Jude 7. Before looking at what we can "learn" from Lot's wife, we call attention again to what Jesus said in Luke 17:32. (Read, and point out that there ARE several things we **can** learn as we point out some things of note from Genesis 19, when and after she and her family were told **not** to "look back", as they were to leave Sodom for the mountains. Gen.39:17).

DISCUSSION

1) 1st, we learn the obvious, that we are not to look back to the world when we become Christians. The JEWS at the Red Sea and in the wilderness often looked back, yearning for the things they once had. So did many converts to Christ in the first century. Lk.9:62; Ga.4:9; 2Pe.2:20-22; Col.3:1f; He.12:1; cf Mt.14:22-31....

2) 2nd, we learn that a command doesn't have to be repeated over and over for it to be obeyed. ONCE is enough. (cf lady in Albuquerque...3 times to be valid). Cf Eve (heard the command **once**, and repeated it to the serpent. Gen.3. So, once was enough. Cf Mk.16:16...cf Lot's wife.

3) 3rd, we learn that God's commands are simple enough and easy to be understood. Some don't **want** to understand, for it condemns them in their sinful conduct. Some say that religious leaders don't agree, and **they** have been to places of higher learning, and if they can't agree, how can we be expected to know what is right or wrong. All we have to do is READ the scripture and learn for ourselves. Mt.13:15; Psa.119:104; Eph.3:4; 5:17...

4) 4th, we learn that though one be married to a righteous person, that does not save him or her. Mrs. Lot was married to a righteous man, but only she was lost in rebelling against God. 2Pe.2:6. We stand or fall as individuals, and are individually accountable to God. 2Co.5:10

5) 5th, we learn that one can perish **after** being warned of the consequences or danger involved. Lot's wife heard and surely understood the warning. If she had not been warned, we could understand why she didn't want to leave Sodom. God wants **us** to warn the wicked. Ezek.3:15-21; 1Co.4:14. I do not want someone to be lost in sin, and come to the judgment day and ask me WHY I did not warn them that they were living in sin.

6) 6th, we learn that one needs to obey **all** the instructions God gives to us. Lot's wife started out obeying as she headed out of Sodom, but disobeyed by looking back, and turned into a pillar of salt. **We** must obey **all** of God's instructions to the best of our ability. Mt.4:4;28:18-20. If Noah had built the ark exactly as God commanded him, but did not use the right kind of wood (gopher wood), the ark would not have saved him and his family from the flood. Cf Gen.6:22. It is not enough to **believe only** to be saved, but we must also **repent and be baptized** to complete the conversion process. Ac.2:36,37f.

7) 7th, we learn from the action of Lot's wife that even if we are separated from the presence of evil, we can still be lost. Lot's wife was **away from** the presence of the Sodomites, yet her heart was still there and she was vainly concerned about what was going to happen, but not concerned about herself to do what **she** needed to do. She may have been grieving over her 2 daughters and their husbands who evidently decided to remain in Sodom. **We** must not refuse to obey God even though all of our families and loved ones are not interested in salvation. Evil company can be a deadly influence. Ex.23:2; 1Co.14:33; Ep.5:11

8) 8th, we learn that to disobey **one** command, we can still be lost. Mrs. Lot only disobeyed one command, yet she lost her life. There was more than **one** action in the angel's instruction. Cf Gen. 19:17. Eve only disobeyed one command one time, and she died spiritually and physically. One cannot be a very religious person, but still be a drunkard or fornicator, and lose his soul. One can disobey the command to be baptized, and never be saved in the first place. Cf Mk.16:16; Js.2:10; 4:17

CONCLUSION

- I. Let us **all** learn from the disobedient Mrs. Lot?
- II. Exhortation.