

# **“REMEMBER LOT’S WIFE”**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In the Bible we read about a woman who turned into a pillar of salt. God was so displeased with the homosexuality of the people of Sodom and surrounding cities, that He purposed to destroy them. As the angels visited Sodom, the **men** tried to FORCE the **angels** into improper sexual relations with them. The men were stricken blind, but still “*wearied to find the door*” to get to the angels. THAT WAS ENOUGH!!

The only righteous family there was that of Lot, the nephew of the patriarch Abraham, a friend of God. The angel gave instructions for this family to leave Sodom, and not even “look back” as God was going to destroy the city. After they left, Lot’s wife “looked back” at the city, and literally turned into a pillar of salt. In one of the short verses of the New Testament Jesus is recorded as saying, “Remember Lot’s wife.” Acts 17:32. Now let’s note a few lessons to be learned as WE “remember Lot’s wife.”

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. 1<sup>st</sup>, we learn of the DANGER OF LOOKING BACK.**

A. Lot’s wife turned into a pillar of salt and lost her life—as a result of looking back.

B. Today, there is the danger of “looking back.”

1. This is true in the MATERIAL REALM.

- a. If we are driving down the highway 70 or 75 mph and look back where we have been, we may well die in a head-on collision, or end up in a ditch.
- b. A farmer who looks back while he is plowing his crop will likely destroy some of it.

2. Likewise, there is danger of looking back in the SPIRITUAL REALM.

- a. If we yearn for the enjoyment of sins and things of the past, it will take our hearts back into sin and away from God. Exo. 16:1-3; Luke 9:62; Heb. 10:38-39
- b. Or, if we become satisfied with the accomplishments of the past, we may well fail to go forward as we should. Phil. 4:13-14; Rev. 3:15-19

### **II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, we learn of the DANGER OF ANY ACT OF DISOBEDIENCE.**

A. Lot’s wife only disobeyed ONE command, ONE time, and her other acts of obedience did not cover up this ONE act of disobedience.

B. There is always danger in **any** act of disobedience to God’s commands.

1. Ananias and Sapphira had been baptized into the church, but **lost** their lives because of one sin—LYING. Cf Jas. 2:10

2. A woman can commit fornication ONE time and be put away for her fornication.

3. Church members can commit **any ONE** sin and be lost if they refuse to repent of it. 1 John 1:7-9

a. A Bible class teacher who steals will be lost.

b. A preacher who commits adultery will be lost.

c. A song leader who lies will be lost.

d. A Christian who puts personal pleasure before faithful worship to God will be lost.

### **III. 3<sup>rd</sup>, we learn of the DANGER OF INDIVIDUAL SINS.**

A. Lot’s wife was not spared because of the obedience of her husband, but her OWN sin.

B. Today, our salvation depends on **individual** action.

1. You will not be blessed or condemned by **MY** actions, but by what you do individually. Cf Matt. 25:14-30 (Make application of individual responsibility and action)
2. Each person must individually obey the gospel. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38 (Note "he" and "every one")
3. Each person shall give account of self to God. 2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:12

#### **IV. 4<sup>th</sup>, we learn of the DANGER OF LITTLE THINGS.**

A. Lot's wife did not curse the angels, or even turn around or even start back to Sodom, but simply "looked back" (a little thing indeed), but suffered the consequences.

B. Sometimes we try to justify ourselves or someone else by saying, "Oh, that's just a little thing," but little things have big consequences.

1. Did you ever hear of the story of the "missing nail?"
  - a. *"For want of a nail, the shoe was lost, and for want of a shoe the horse could not enter into battle and for want of the horse the battle was lost, and for want of that battle, the entire war was lost."*
  - b. A newspaper carried the account of a **little** "nut" that fell into the electric motor of some machinery at a coal mine in England, which caused a 2 week shutdown and production of 18,000 tons of coal, and forced the the transfer of 750 men to other places of work.
2. The world is made up of little things, as the song we used to sing in elementary school says, *"Little drops of water, little grains of sand, make the mighty ocean and the beautiful land."*
3. Think of the things that can happen with "little things."
  - a. One **word**, spoken in anger, can destroy a friendship.
  - b. One **puff** of a cigarette can cause a lifetime addiction and shortened life.
  - c. One **swallow** of alcohol can cause millions to become alcoholics.
  - d. One **win** in participating in the state lottery can lead to habitual gambling and the loss of one's possessions.
  - e. One **appearance** of a woman in immodest apparel may cause just one man to look at her lustfully, and lead to a dangerous life of sin.
  - f. **Viewing** one pornographic movie may lead to an addiction to such.
  - g. **Missing** just one assembly of worship may begin a downward trend of neglect and a final departure from the truth.

#### **CONCLUSION**

I. So, as we "remember lot's wife," we learn that there is danger in 1) Looking Back, 2) Any act of disobedience, 3) Individual sins, and 4) Little things. Cf Rom. 15:4

II. Look to the present and the future, by becoming and remaining a Christian, in view of eternity in the next world.

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