

REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE? OR, REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE!

What happened to her? Was she saved?

Luke 17:26-37

TEXT: *Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot's wife! Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left." "Where, Lord?" they asked. He replied, "Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather.*

In Jesus' name, my fellow redeemed:

Remember Lot's wife! That was not a question. That was an imperative, a command. But how can anyone remember Lot's wife unless they know who she was? The tragic reality is that today there are more and more people who consider themselves to be Christians who know do not know who Lot or his wife were! There is a picture of Lot's wife on the front of the bulletin today and there are many who do not know why or what it's about! Nor could they tell you what that statue of Lot's wife is made of and why it is a statue made of salt. So unless the statement, "Remember Lot's wife" is first addressed as a question, the command to "Remember Lot's wife!" is of no value.

I can't imagine that there is anyone here today who does not know the details surrounding Lot's wife so that Jesus would have us remember her, but just in case, let me refresh your memory.

Lot and his wife and two daughters were the only "righteous" people in the city of Sodom. When the Bible calls anyone "righteous" it means to say that they believed that the Lord was going to send the Savior promised in the Garden of Eden to fallen Adam and Eve. We would call them "Christians." How Lot and his wife and daughters ended up living in Sodom is another story, but the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were noted for the unbelief and gross immorality of its people. The unbelief of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah was specifically manifested in the perversion of homosexuality, and God had revealed to Abraham, Lot's uncle, that He was going to bring a horrific judgment upon them.

Abraham prayed hard and long for his nephew Lot, and God answered Abraham's prayer by sending angels who rescued them just a few hours before God rained down burning sulfur that destroyed the entire area, changing what once was a beautiful lake into what would then be called "the Dead Sea." The Bible says: *... the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished." When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them. As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back..."* Ge 19 But sad to say, Lot's wife

looked back. The Bible says: *But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.*

The world laughs at this historical account as if it were written by anti-gay people. But Jesus commands us to **REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE!** Remember her within the context of the next and final great day of judgment soon to come upon all the world. Let us consider within the context of Jesus' command to remember Lot's wife: **What happened to her? Was she saved?**

What happened to Lot's wife? Well, all the Bible says is that she looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. Whether or not Lot ever went back for some kind of memorial service is not mentioned in the Scripture. There was no burial or cremation because she was a rock hard statue of salt. Why did Jesus call our attention to this fact?

When the Jewish Pharisees had asked Jesus one day about when the Kingdom of God would come, Jesus answered them by recalling two great historical judgments of the past: Noah's Flood, and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. He said: *Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.* Notice that Jesus doesn't even mention any particular sin. We know that there was such gross homosexual sinning going on that God destroyed them, and you and I can draw some genuine parallels to our society today that would eagerly arrest me for calling homosexual behavior a perversion. But Jesus doesn't mention this. Instead he draws our attention to what is absent from the people in Noah's day and in the days of Sodom. What was absent was any concern for standing before the Almighty God in judgment for our own sins.

What a tragic end to the matriarch of that little family! One word of God: Don't look back!" While Lot and his daughters continue to flee, the absence of Mom would not be discovered until they had reached safety, for they obviously did not look back!

One little word! In Luther's famous hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," verse three in our hymnal reads: **Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us, We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpow'r us. This world's prince may still Scowl fierce as he will, He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done! ONE LITTLE WORD can fell him!** One little word! That word is JESUS! And how is that possible? That's because whether it is the devil or God Himself who would come up against us, Jesus has died to pay for our sins and he rose again for our justification. Jesus declared: *I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.* Jn 11 This is the Word that was made flesh and who lived among us, died before us and rose again with this promise to all.

What happened to Lot's wife? She died. She failed to obey one tiny command of God, and she died. So then we wonder: Was she saved?

Was Lot's wife saved? She died committing a sin. Yet the Book of Genesis lists her along with husband Lot as "the righteous" which is the Old Testament's nickname for a believer in the coming Christ. But the Bible doesn't say whether she went to heaven or to hell. If you die in a sin, are you not destined to eternal damnation? Yes, but then none

of us have any hope! Jesus told the Pharisees: ***Remember Lot's wife! Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.*** Who of us would try to save our own life? Who of us wouldn't look back? Who of us can be sure of our salvation is one little mistake, one little sin, can kill us? While God destroyed the homosexuals of Sodom, He also kills one Christian wife who makes the mistake of taking one little look back! What kind of God is this?

While the Bible doesn't specifically tell us about whether Lot's wife was saved or not, I believe that she was because saved for one reason: she is listed along with her husband as "the righteous." That means that she also believed in the coming Christ. And while she committed a sin of weakness, it surely was not something that testified to any unbelief on her part! She lost her life, the Lord took her, in my opinion from Scripture, to heaven, and in her place stood a statue of salt to which Jesus, 2000 years later, pointed with the admonition: Remember Lot's wife!

Salvation is NOT BASED ON WORKS! It is based on faith alone in one Word: Jesus! But that single word, "Jesus" means nothing unless we know what it is that God has done for us through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Then it comes down to whom will I believe? Will I believe that I have done enough? Remember Lot's wife! Whose works deserved more punishment? The homosexuals of Sodom or Lot's wife and her glance backward? BOTH! The Bible says: ***For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.*** Jas 2 And Paul writes: ***There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented (Jesus) him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.*** Ro 3

Where is this faith to be found? Only God knows and you know. But on Judgment Day we will all know! Jesus dramatically illustrates this with this warning: ***On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot's wife! Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left. "Where, Lord?" they asked. He replied, "Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather.*** It's not based on works. Two people, a husband and wife, will be sleeping. But when the Lord comes, the one with faith in Jesus will be saved, the other without faith will go to hell. Two lovely ladies will be doing their chores together, but the one with faith in Jesus will be saved and the one without will be damned.

So where is this saving faith to be found? It is in the heart of the one who hears and believes the Gospel of forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name. Remember Lot's wife! Listen to Jesus and believe His Saving Word! And you will be saved. Amen