

Remember Lot's Wife!

Gen. 19:12-26, Luke 17:28-32

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Intro. *Most are familiar with story of Sodom & Gomorrah*

- A. **Gen. 18** - The LORD appeared to Abram & told him that Sodom was filled with sin.
 - 1. Abram knew He intended to destroy the city.
 - 2. Abe pleaded with God not to destroy the good with bad.
 - a. Began with **50**, then **45, 40, 30, 20, 10**.
 - b. Came down to only **4!**
- B. Tho the angels were explicit in their instructions, Lot's wife perished.
 - 1. Became pillar of salt.
 - 2. Sad ending for someone who was "almost saved"!
- C. Jesus reminds us that we can learn from her example.
 - 1. **Luke 17:28-32**
 - 2. Whether Jesus is talking about the destruction of Jerusalem or His return, words are timely today.
- D. Many things we can learn, will take a look at a few.
 - 1. The things that caused her to perish are same as we face.
 - 2. Note these...

I. *Tho she was wife of righteous man, she still perished.*

- A. Lot was torn up by the sinfulness in which he lived.
 - 1. **2 Ptr 2:7-8**
 - 2. "Vex, Tormented" - Gr. "basanizo"
 - a. To test (metals) by the touchstone, which is a black siliceous stone used to test the purity of gold or silver by the color of the streak produced on it by rubbing it with either metal
 - b. to question by applying torture
 - 3. Lot was appalled by the things going on around him.
- B. Not enough for Mrs. Lot. She couldn't be saved by someone else's life.
 - 1. Bible is clear that we are each responsible for our own sins. We are accountable.
 - 2. Several times in **Ezek 18**: "*The soul who sins shall die!*"

- C. John the baptist reiterated personal responsibility.
 - 1. **Matt. 3:5-9**
 - 2. Pharisees & Sadducees were seen as spiritual "giants"
- D. Today some still think that because someone in the family is "good," they are also by extension.
 - 1. Usually when I tell someone I am Christian, they invariably tell me of wife, brother, or grandma who is religious.
 - 2. They look at me expectantly! What to say?

II. *She perished tho she was warned.*

- A. Angels explicitly spelled out the warning
 - 1. "*Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay in the valley; escape to the mountains, lest you be swept away.*" **Gen. 19:17**
 - 2. Not only was she warned about the consequences, she was told what to do to be saved from them!
- B. Hundreds of years prior, Noah also was warned of impending judgement.
 - 1. **Heb. 11:7**
 - 2. Noah called a "*preacher of righteousness*" (2 Pe 2:5)
 - a. No doubt he told others of what was to come.
 - b. Yet only Noah & 7 others saved.
- C. Bible abounds with warnings for us today.
 - 1. **1 Cor. 10:1-10** describes God's judgments on disobedient
 - a. **1 Cor. 10:11**
 - b. God does not will that any perish - That's why He warns us!
 - 2. He warns the wicked...
 - a. **Acts 17:30-31; 2 Thess 1:6-9**
 - 3. He warns the saved...
 - a. Jesus' messages to 7 churches **Rev. 2-3**
Ephesus: "*Left your 1st love...repent or I will remove your lampstand*"
Smyrna: "*Devil about to cast some into prison. Be faithful until death...*"
Pergamum: "*I have a few things against you...repent*"
Thyatira: "*I have this against you, you tolerate the woman Jezebel...*"

Sardis: *“Wake up ..repent”*

Philadelphia: *“I am coming quickly, hold fast what you have.”*

Laodicea: *“Because you are lukewarm I will spit you out of my mouth!”*

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” IE; Be Warned!

III. Though she did try to save herself, she didn't finish.

- A. She started the journey but didn't continue. She looked back. **Gen 19:26**
 - 1. The word implies *“to regard with care”*
 - 2. Obviously some things in Sodom she would miss!
- B. Many today start well but don't go far. Many reasons for this.
 - 1. We think too much of our “stuff.”
 - a. **Gen 45:20; Luke 12:15**
 - 2. Truth is, there is something lurking around the corner for everyone just waiting for the chance to make you stumble.
 - a. **Matt. 13:19-22**
 - b. These types are scattered in churches everywhere. Some of the lowest lows a local church experiences are seeing the newly converted revert back to sin.
 - c. How often do we still let things in the past cloud our vision?
- C. The would-be disciples in **Luke 9:57-62** had the same eye trouble.
 - 1. Note Jesus' response
 - a. **Luke 9:62**
 - 2. Reminds us that the glorious future lies ahead, NOT behind!
 - 3. Paul reminds us to keep pressing ahead.
 - a. **Phil. 3:13-14**
 - b. Paul had a great past as a Jewish rising star.
 - c. Not near as great as what Jesus had planned for him!

and follow through to the end!

- A. We can't expect to be saved by our spouse, parent, etc.
 - 1. WE have to buck up to our responsibility!
- B. We must recognize the danger of ignoring warnings.
 - 1. Warnings not meant to condemn, meant to save!
- C. We can't look back, look ahead!
 - 1. *“.. let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Heb 12:1-2*
- D. INV

Conc. *We've got to set the goal, then keep our eyes fixed on it,*