**“Remember Lot’s Wife!”**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday March 10th, 2019

Text: Luke 17:32

# Intro

1. There are many warnings for God’s people to not look back once redeemed!
   1. Num. 14:4; Is. 30:2: After being delivered from slavery, Israel looked back to Egypt.
   2. Heb. 11:15: The heroes of faith could have looked back, but they looked forward!
   3. Lk. 9:62: Jesus said those who look back are not worthy of Him!
   4. II Pet. 2:20-22: Peter says it’s like a dog returning to its vomit or a sow, after being washed, returning to the mire!
2. Jesus warned against looking back with a short phrase, “Remember Lot’s Wife!” (Lk. 17:32)
   1. In teaching about His 2nd Coming He used:
      1. *Lk. 17:26-27:* Noah’s day as an illustration – The Flood.
      2. *Lk. 17:28-31:* Lot’s day as an illustration – Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah.
   2. Both illustrations conveyed what He was teaching: It will come suddenly.
   3. While fleeing Sodom in delaying and looking back it cost Lot’s wife her life!
3. “Remember Lot’s wife” speaks of being prepared and not looking back!
4. **Danger of an Ungodly Environment**
5. Lot had chosen the wealth of the land
   1. Gen. 13:10-12: He chose it for its outside appearance.
   2. Gen. 13:13: Ugly and filled with wickedness on the inside.
   3. Gen. 19:14: Lot’s daughters had married (were betrothed) the people of the land
6. Jude 7: The people of Sodom had committed acts of “gross immorality” and had given themselves over to “strange flesh.”
7. Warning
   1. I Cor. 15:33: "Bad company corrupts good morals” *(II Pet. 2:78).*
   2. *Gen. 19:31-38: Lot’s daughters were corrupted by the wicked influence of the city and committed incest with their father in the name of preserving their family – demonstrating their complete lack of faith in God, and that after what had just happened!*
8. God’s people are to be different, to not look back to where we have come from!
   1. Jn. 17:15: We have to live in the world but not be part of the world.
   2. II Pet. 1:2-4: “Having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”
   3. Phil. 2:14-15: It is possible to remain “above reproach.”
9. Lot chose the greener pastures of Sodom and Gomorrah, and it cost him his family!
10. When we look back and choose the darkness which we escaped from, it can cost us our souls!
11. **God Means What He Says**
12. Gen. 19:17: Escape and DO NOT look behind you! (“Don’t look back!”)
    1. She disobeyed, demonstrating a lack of faith, and lost her life for it!
13. God means what He says:
14. *II Pet. 2:1-9:* Peter used this illustration of the destruction of Sodom as well as the flood to prove that false teachers would one day suffer for their false teachings.
    * 1. *II Pet. 2:4:* Sinful angels would suffer as well.
      2. *II Pet. 2:5:* Noah’s world suffered for its iniquity.
      3. *II Pet. 2:6:* Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for their wickedness.
      4. *II Pet.2:7-8:* Righteous Lot’s deliverance.
      5. II Pet. 2:9: God knows how to rescue the godly and how to punish the wicked.
15. When Jesus applied this event to teach about His second coming, the point is that it will happen!
    1. *II Thess. 1:7-9:* When He returns it will mean punishment for the ungodly *(Mt. 25:41, 46)*
    2. *II Pet. 3:9-12:* His return will mean the destruction of the earth, as we know it.
16. Just as Sodom & Gomorrah were destroyed by fire so the earth will melt with “intense heat!”
17. Judgment is as sure as Christ’s return!
18. **There are Consequences for Sin**
19. Lot’s wife suffered immediately.
20. Gen. 19:26: She looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.
21. Her disobedience is a warning to us
22. Her disobedience is a good illustration of:
23. I Cor. 10:12: Take heed lest you fall!
24. II Pet. 1:10: Give diligence to make calling and election sure.
25. Sometimes the consequence is delayed.
26. Eccl. 8:11: Because judgment is delayed men turn fully to evil.
27. *II Pet. 3:9:* Men should use the delay to repent!
28. God expects better from His children
29. I Pet. 4:14-16: Not to suffer for the evil we commit, but to suffer as Christ did: blameless.
30. Judgment is assured.
31. *Rev. 20:11-15:* Judgment will reach the great and small alike.
32. Actions have consequences: One minute you’re walking along, and one mistake later you’re a salt-lick!
33. **Dedication to the Lord is Necessary**
34. Jesus said those who look back are not fit for the kingdom of God (Lk. 9:62)!
35. Like running race – Endure
36. Heb. 10:32-39: God’s people need endurance to weather the storms of life!
37. Heb. 12:1-3: Must set aside the things that distract us and focus on Christ.
38. Like warfare – Fight the good fight!
39. I Tim. 6:12: Fighting the good fight leads to eternal life!
40. Trust in God, overcome trials through faith (Eph. 6:16; I Jn. 5:4) – Lot’s wife showed her lack of faith by turning back! (Truth will set free – Jn. 8:31-32)
    1. She had been led by the hand out of danger by the angels, was almost free! Like the person who escaped the world and turned back in II Pet. 2:20-22.
41. We need to dedicate our lives to God, not to this world! *(Mt. 6:24, 33; I Jn. 2:15-17)*

**Conclusion**

1. Remember Lot’s Wife – A short sermon but teaches important lessons:
   1. The danger of an ungodly environment
   2. God means what He says
   3. There are consequences for sin
   4. Dedication to the Lord is necessary
2. When warning of the Second Coming, and warning them to Remember Lot’s wife, Jesus was telling them, “Don’t look back!” – The world will be judged and destroyed!
3. It takes a dedication to the Lord to not look back:
   * + 1. Heb. 11:13-16: Those who look back have opportunity to return. Those who look forward are promised a home prepared by God.
       2. Phil. 3:12-14: Paul said he forgets what is behind so he can press forward to the prize!
       3. Col. 3:1-7: Dwell on things above, not of the earth. *Leave old life behind! (I Pet. 4:3)*
       4. II Pet. 1:9: Peter says spiritual blindness occurs when a Christian forgets the purification from sins, therefore is saying, “Remember the Purification!” Don’t return to sin!
          1. Purification = KJV: “purged;” NKJ: “cleansed” (Sins were forgiven, don’t return!)
       5. *I Jn. 2:15-17:* The things of the earth are set for destruction *(II Pet. 3:10-12).*
4. Once delivered from the world “Don’t look back” – Remember Lot’s wife!
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be! Repent, be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins, and march forward into a new life with Christ. ***Don’t look back!***
6. If a Christian who has perhaps looked back, and has glimpsed some part of your old life you begin to miss, ***“Remember Lot’s wife!”*** Repent and be renewed.
7. Whatever your requests, come forward and let them be known ***NOW*** as we stand & sing.