

# Remember Lot's Wife

**Genesis 19:1-30**

**Gen 19:26 But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.**

1. The Lord was merciful. *Run for your lives! The two angels warned. Do not stop anywhere in the valley. And don't look back.* But, Lot's wife did not take seriously the angel's specific command because as she was following along behind her husband. She lingered, she looked back and she was struck dead. *Turned into a pillar of salt.*
2. Lot's wife's death was the direct result of her disobedience to God's spoken plan. This final episode in her life demonstrates the fatal consequences that ultimately spelled her destruction. Even today there exist grotesque salt formations near the southern end of the Dead Sea that are reminders of Lot's wife's folly and disobedience.
3. The tragic error in Lot's wife was in looking back and placing her attention and affection on an earthly society and her earthly possessions rather than looking forward. Did she look back because her thoughts and heart were still clinging to something or someone in Sodom?
4. As we leave a destructive history behind it will be tempting to look back, but remember the price Lot's wife paid for not following the program the angels had set out for her family. *One moment of hesitation cost her life.* What about yours? Ask yourself: What is back there I really would want to return to other than a dark and meaningless nothing.

**Gen 19:13-16 For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it." 14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking. 15 When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city." 16 And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.**

1. God will attempt to warn us of our coming destruction, hoping that we will change and experience deliverance before finally He says, *"Enough is Enough."* He *"Will Allow"* us to experience the full consequences of any destructive behavior or disobedience.
2. If left to our self-destructive ways by not getting out of a dark and meaningless lifestyle, we will destroy not only our life, but the worst result of our loss of control is the hurt we bring to the innocent.
3. Are you hesitating? Are you not taking God seriously? Are you lingering or dragging your feet from fleeing on-coming destruction? If not taken seriously all will eventually hit bottom. *Whatever that bottom may be.*

4. God will use trials and temptation to refine and test our faithfulness. *Will we be obedient?* He may even allow us to hit bottom in order to promote our spiritual growth. God uses trials to remind us how much we need Him.
5. Hitting bottom may be the only thing that could save some of us. Such failure often helps us to finally understand and admit our true condition. Feeling the shame, despair, guilt and seeing our life being wasted—hitting bottom should show us our absolute need for obedience to God and His Word.

***Gen 19:17 So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."***

1. It would be wise to learn from Lot's wife's mistake. We must not linger or drag our feet, but continue to steadily move forward in obedience to God before we discover the consequences of either looking or going back that can prove to be disastrous.
2. We must *"Escape for our Life"* from a dysfunctional lifestyle to be delivered from a *"Swift and Impending End."* Like it or not we can be destroyed by these very people, places or things we possess and are holding onto.
3. The next time you find yourself on shaky ground and Satan is coming in like a roaring lion, perhaps you should *"Get up and get out of that place!" Pray, run fast, don't look back and than once in safe territory analyze your situation. If God is on our side, there is no enemy or problem too great!*

***2 Peter 2:6-10 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8(for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) -- 9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority.***

1. God decreed destruction for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and a mound of ashes was all that was left\_\_ *"A grim warning to anyone living an ungodly lifestyle."*
2. Even though Lot was a flawed person with his own character defects and spent a great deal of time thinking only of himself he was still, according to the Word of God, a righteous man. A man who was distressed by the immorality and wickedness he had been a witness to day after day. ***Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***
3. God loved Lot and God loves us even while we think only of ourselves and live a destructive lifestyle. He continues to show His love to all who trust in Him, no matter who we are or how great our sins.

4. Recovery from any stronghold is not perfectionism. Recovery in Christ Jesus is developing the ability to follow Him, not look back and make all future decisions based on and according to His perfect will and purpose for our life.

***2 Peter 2: 9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the Day of Judgment,***

1. *How quickly do we turn to God when we are in trouble, struggling or something is going drastically wrong!* Where yesterday's happiness found us only vaguely aware of God's presence and grace, does today's pain and frustrations find you begging for His mercy?
2. If we wait until times get tough or disaster strikes to beg for mercy, God will answer our cries, but why go through all that pain when today we know obedience to God's Word produces wholeness. Doesn't it seem logical that we should do all we can to follow and obey Him today?
3. We have all seen how destructive lifestyles, strongholds and their accompanying sins can be. And many of us have experienced them first-hand. We would be wise to learn from them. If we don't, we may become one of God's object lessons to show others what happens to those who rebel in disobedience against Him. ***Luke 17:32 Remember Lot's Wife***

***Phil 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.***

1. We need to see ourselves as Paul sees himself in these verses as a runner in a race. Exerting all his strength and pressing on with intense concentration in order not to fall short of his goal in receiving the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
2. What is needed is *"forgetting what is behind"* i.e., the insanity of the world we once lived in and our self-destructive behaviors.
3. At one time we were foolish, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of sinful passions and pleasures. But, when the kindness and love of God appeared He saved us. Not because of the righteous things we had done, or we well deserved it, but because of His mercy. *With God's help lets remove our kingdom and establish His.*
4. Realize that God has a specific plan for your life. If God numbers the hairs of your head (***Matthew 10:30***) knows your sorrow (***Exodus 3:7***) and keeps tracks of your tears (***Psalms 56:8***) surely He is concerned with every area of your life.

*It is easy to think that if circumstances were just a little better, recovery from any stronghold would be easier. But, the true test of recovery is how well you and God work together when times do get tough.*