

REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE

Text: Luke 17:32

INTRO: Years ago when I was in Springhill, LA, we had a lady in the congregation who was convinced that any study of the O.T. was a waste of time because "we are not living under the O.T. law." Once when we were about to begin a study of the book of Job, she again complained that we were wasting our time in the O.T. I replied, "Jesus said in Luke 17:32, 'Remember Lot's wife.' If you'll tell me what to remember about Lot's wife without using the O.T., I'll quit using it."

She didn't. And I didn't. Let's notice some things we need to re-member about, & learn from Lot's wife. READ GEN 19:15-17, 24-26.

I SHE PERISHED EVEN THO SHE WAS THE WIFE OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN.

[God] delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds). (2 Peter 2:7-8).

- A. Lot certainly wasn't righteous on the basis of being sinless.
- B. He was, however, counted as righteous on the basis of forgiveness.

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity... (Psalm 32:1-2).

- C. Lot's wife could have been righteous on the same basis, but instead, she died in her sins.

II. SHE PERISHED EVEN THO SHE HAD BEEN WARNED.

READ GENESIS 19:12-13. What about the heathen who have never heard the gospel? What is that to you? You have heard.

III. LOT'S WIFE PERISHED EVEN THO ANGELS MINISTERED TO HER, GENESIS 19:15-17. Heb. 1:14; Baalam, Num. 22

IV. SHE PERISHED EVEN THO SHE STARTED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth. (Gal. 5:7). Luke 8:13

V. SHE PERISHED EVEN THO SHE PHYSICALLY LEFT THE CITY OF SODOM, GENESIS 19:17, 26.

A. The angels got Lot's wife out of Sodom, but they couldn't get Sodom out of Lot's wife. The Hebrew word for "looked" suggests more than a backward glance. Even that might have been enough to cause her doom. But she looked back longingly. She had to take just one last, long, look at Sodom.

B. Like the Israelites who left Egypt to follow Moses to the promised land. They never physically returned to Egypt, but in their hearts they turned back, Acts 7:39. And they never made it to the promised land.

C. This is the primary lesson in Luke 17:32.

VI. LOT'S WIFE PERISHED ON THE BASIS OF ONE SIN, GENESIS 19:17, 26.

A. Lot was spared; his wife was lost.

1. Not because she had sinned & he had not.
2. Not because she sinned much & he sinned little.
3. Not because she sinned greivous sins & he sinned acceptable sins.

4. Lot did whatever God required that his sins might be forgiven. The only thing that will ever allow a sinner to be counted as righteous is that all his sins be forgiven.

B. I don't know what God required of Lot as conditions of forgiveness. Lot knew, & that's all that matters.

C. But I know what God's word says WE must do to have remission or forgiveness of sins in the N.T. age. Acts 2:36-38.

D. And if we have started right, but have not followed thru,
Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9.

CONCLUSION: Remember Lot's wife! She looked the wrong way. Looking the wrong way, longing for the wrong things, will eventually cause many to arrive at the wrong destiny. Let us rather look "unto Jesus, the author & finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:2).

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