Remember Lot’s Wife

Intro: One of the shortest, yet a very significant statement is recorded for us in Luke 17:32 “Remember Lot’s wife.” To fully appreciate this statement, we must necessarily know what the Bible teaches about Lot’s wife.

I. The Background For The Declaration
   A. It’s setting is in Genesis:
      1. In Genesis 12:
         a. The call of Abram
         b. Abraham, Sarah (his wife), and Lot leave the land of their nativity to go into a land God would show them.
      2. In Genesis 13:
         a. Through the passing of years, both Abraham and Lot become rich.
         b. Strife soon develops between the herdsmen of Abraham and Lot.
            (1) The wise council of Abraham; Gen. 13:8-9 “And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. 9 Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.”
            (2) It would be good if we would reason in such manner today.
            (3) Lot’s choice; Gen. 13:10-12 “And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. 11Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. 12Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.
            (4) The people where Lot chose; Gen. 13:13 “But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.”
      3. Gen. 18-19
         a. The destruction of Sodom, Gomorrah, and the cities of the plains
         b. The Lord sends two angels to warn Lot of the impending destruction
         c. The angels warn Lot to flee the area.
         d. The specific command; Gen. 19:17 “And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life: look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.”
         e. The disobedience of Lot’s wife and her punishment; Gen. 19:26 “But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.”
   B. Thus, Jesus’ statement: “Remember Lot’s wife.”
      1. There are lessons to be learned from the historic account.
      2. Rom. 15:4 “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”
II. **GOD HATES INIQUITY**

A. **In one sense, this is the only thing God does hate.**

1. Hab. 1:13 "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?"

2. 1 Pet. 3:12 “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

3. Pro. 6:16-19 “These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”

4. Eph. 5:6 “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.”

5. 1 John 1:5 “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

B. **This is the reason God destroyed these cities:**

1. Jude 7 “Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”

2. It is also the reason for the destruction of the Lord in the last day; 2 Th. 1:6-9 “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”

III. **GOD DESIRES TO SAVE.**

A. **God has ever desired man’s salvation**

1. The devil has propagated a lie making men believe that God desires to cast people into hell.

2. Eze. 33:11 “Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?”

3. 2 Pet. 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

B. **If it had been possible to harmonize His Divine law and justice, He would have spared the cities.**

C. **God did provide a way for Lot and his family to be saved; He provides a way for us to be saved.**

IV. **GOD’S WAY OF SALVATION IS PLAIN, UNMISTAKEN**

A. **What God told Lot and his family to do was beyond misunderstanding.**

B. **The same is true today:**

1. Isa. 35:8 “And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.”

2. John 7:17 “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”
C. Consider the Great Commission:
   1. Teaching and baptism: Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
   2. Believe and baptism: Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
   3. Repentance: Luke 24:46-47 “And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

D. Consider the day of Pentecost:
   1. The command was clear and plain.
   2. Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

V. God’s Way Is A Way Of Sacrifice
   A. The way to salvation cost Lot and his family.
      1. It caused separation from possessions and friends.
      2. It even caused separation from some of their immediate family.
         a. Sons
         b. 2 Sons-in-law
         c. 2 daughters
         d. Gen. 19:12-17 “And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it. And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law. And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city. And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.”
   B. The same is true today.
      1. Mat. 10:37-38 “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.”
      2. Many are not willing to make the sacrifice demanded.

VI. God’s Way May Seem Foolish To Man.
   A. God’s command to “look not behind thee” may have seemed foolish to Lot and his family.
B. 1 Cor. 1:18 “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”
1. Isa. 55:8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”
2. Pharaoh thought afflicting the Israelites would hinder their growth; Exo. 1:12 “But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.”
3. The method of capturing Jericho seems foolish to man; Jos. 6.
4. Baptism in water for the remission of sins seems foolish to many today, but we must obey it to be saved.

VII. GOD DEMANDS COMPLETE OBEDIENCE.
A. God has never accepted a divided allegiance.
1. God has always demanded our all.
2. Mat. 22:37 “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”
3. Mat. 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

B. We must choose to serve Jehovah:
1. Jos. 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
2. 1 Kings 18:21 “And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.”
3. Mat. 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
4. Laodiceans tried to hold to God and their riches; Rev. 3:15-17 “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:”

C. It must be all or none:
1. King Saul tried to have a divided allegiance.
   a. God told him to destroy the Amalekites; 1 Sam. 15:3 “Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.”
   b. He tried to satisfy the people and spared some; 1 Sam. 15:9, 20-21 “But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly. . . . 20And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.”
2. Jam. 2:10 “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”
VIII. ONE SAVED CAN STILL BE LOST.

A. Lot’s wife received salvation by leaving, but she almost immediately lost it when she looked back.

B. The same is true of many today:
   1. 1 Cor. 10:12 “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”
   2. 2 Pet. 2:20-22 “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”
   3. We have too many who put their hand to the plow and then look back; Luke 9:62 “And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Conclusion: There is one more lesson that we can learn: if we are lost, we have no one to blame but ourselves. Lot’s wife had the way to escape; she decided to look back and was turned into a pillar of salt. God desires our salvation, He has provided for it, and He made the way plain and unmistakable. The question is always if we will accept it or reject it. The decision is ours.