

## Remember Mrs. Lot

I recently heard a speaker say that there are 170 women mentioned in the Bible. I don't know if that number is accurate or not, and I didn't bother to check since such doesn't really matter for our purposes here. However, he arrested my attention when he continued with, "Jesus said to remember just one." I knew immediately, and you probably do also, that he was referring to "*Remember Lot's wife*" from Luke 17:32. Though the overall context of Jesus' statement is important and contains many things that we should study, understand, and consider, right now let's just concentrate on, and hopefully learn from, **Mrs. Lot**.

Lot, and presumably Mrs. Lot (though she is not yet mentioned in the text), when presented with the choice by his uncle Abraham, "*chose for himself*" the well-watered "*valley of the Jordan*" in which to live and work. This area included the "*wicked*" and "*exceedingly*" sinful cities of Sodom and Gomorrah of later infamy, where Lot chose to live (specifically in Sodom), Gen.13:7-13; 14:12.

After God decided the people of that region were *irredeemable* (Gen.18:22 – 19:13), of course with notable exception of Lot, cf. 2Pet.2:6-9, the angels of the Lord entreated the whole family to flee with them before they were all destroyed along with the wicked. When Lot's *sons* and *sons-in-law* refused to heed the warning and leave, the angels took Lot, Mrs. Lot, and their two daughters, and fled outside the city, Gen.19:12-16. It is notable that though Lot "*hesitated... the compassion of the Lord was upon him; and they (the angels) brought him out, and put him outside the city,*" Gen.19:16. But Lot, Mrs. Lot, and their two daughters were given specific further instructions, "*Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, lest you be swept away,*" Gen.19:17. And of course, you know the rest of this part of the story. "*But his wife, from behind him, looked back; and she became a pillar of salt,*" Gen.19:26. Hence the Lord's warning of Luke 17:32ff concerning the then future destruction of Jerusalem, "**Remember Lot's wife.**"

Let's consider some obvious and some perhaps not so obvious lessons regarding **looking back** from Mrs. Lot:

- 1. You can't properly move forward while looking back.** Such was true for the Lot family, and it's true for anyone seeking to escape "*the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord,*" 2Pet.2:20. If we're willing to become true *disciples of Christ*, we need to remember His admonition of Luke 9:62, "*No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*" Remember Mrs. Lot!
- 2. Don't look back, especially with loving longing, at what God has destroyed, or will destroy.** 1John 2:15 reads, "*Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*" Understand one thing very clearly: "*the earth and its works will be burned up,*" 2Pet.3:10. The word "anathema," usually translated as "accursed" (by the NASB), loosely refers to "things devoted to destruction." Such is *the world* and all things *in* and *of* it. Remember Mrs. Lot!

3. **Don't look back, especially with loving longing, at that from which God is delivering you.** God, through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ, offers a *path of deliverance* from sin and its *temporal* and *eternal* consequences. By the *gracious compassion* (remember Gen.19:16!) of God, "*the creation itself will be set free from its slavery to corruption in the freedom of the glory of the children of God,*" Rom.8:21, if it will only *look forward* to and *follow* Christ Jesus rather than *looking back* to that from which He delivers! As James 4:1-4 tells us, our own "*pleasures*" (and *desires* for them) and "*friendship with the world*" destines us to suffer its fate of eternal destruction. Remember Mrs. Lot!

What do you *value* or "*treasure*"? Jesus indicated that which we "*treasure*" lets us know where our "*heart*" truly is, Matt.6:19-21. As a Christian, are your "*treasures*" **behind** you in the world, and garnering your attention; or, are they **before** you so that you instead *long for* and *look to* heaven? Don't look back at your *past* with which God is finished and will *burn*, but *forward* to the *future* that He has planned for you with Him eternally.

Mrs. Lot got stuck and paralyzed in a place she was only meant to pass through... because she *longed more for* and *looked back* to what was **behind** rather than **ahead** of her. **Remember Mrs. Lot!** (Philip C. Strong; Viking Drive Church of Christ; 3791 Viking Drive, Bossier City, LA; online at [vikingdrivechurchofchrist.com](http://vikingdrivechurchofchrist.com); email to [mrpcstrong@hotmail.com](mailto:mrpcstrong@hotmail.com))