

Remember Lot's Wife!

- *Holiness* by J C Ryle
- Luke 17:20-35- Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, 21 nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst." 22 Then he said to his disciples, "The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. 23 People will tell you, 'There he is!' or 'Here he is!' Do not go running off after them. 24 For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. 25 But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.
 - 26 "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.
 - 28 "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.
 - 30 "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. 31 On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. 32 Remember Lot's wife! 33 Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it. 34 I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. 35 Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left."
- Jesus' warning here is not only for the final generation, but for all generations. Whether you live in the end of days or not, your days will end...and so take heed to Jesus' warning.
- The subject= the end of days. The warning= Remember Lot's wife!
- Genesis 19 (v.17)"Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere..."
 - (v.26) "But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt."
- 2 Peter 2:7-8- Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless **8** (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)..."
- The first lesson we can learn from Lot's wife: Religious Privileges Do Not Save.
- Lot's wife was around the right people, but wasn't right within.
- Saul was led by David's worship. Judas was Jesus' disciple. Ananias and Sapphira were running with the apostles...but they didn't allow the light around them to penetrate and get in them.
- These religious experiences are a privilege, but they can do much harm if we don't allow them to produce fruit in us. "The same fire that melts the wax, hardens the clay. The same sun that makes the living tree grow, dries up the dead tree and prepares it for

burning. Nothing hardens the heart of man as much as an empty familiarity with sacred things.” -J C Ryle

- Don't sit around the fire of God, only to smell like the fire. Don't sit around the fire of God, only to allow the glow of the fire to radiate off your face. Don't sit around the fire of God, only to be warmed by it. Get in the fire, allow the fire to get in you and to consume you. Don't be deceived because you smell like fire and the flicker of the fire twinkles from your eye. Unless you are in the fire, consumed by it...you're out of it. There are only 2 options.
- **Are you resting in your religious privileges? Remember Lot's Wife! Religious Privileges Do Not Save.**
- 2nd lesson we can learn from Lot's wife: Disobedience is sin and sin is destructive.
- A fancy lie satan would love for us to believe: sin is only something that hurts another human.
- Disobedience is sin.
- “You shall have no other gods before me.”
- Obedience shows who is Lord in your life. Romans 6:16- Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey— whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?
- Either you obey God, or you obey yourself. Either you obey God, or you obey your urges, your temper, your lust, your greed...and whoever you obey is Lord of your life.
- This simple act of looking back was a declaration that God was not lord of her life.
- Ecclesiastes 12:13- Fear God and obey his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.
- **What 'small' disobedience is in your life? Remember Lot's Wife! Disobedience is sin and sin is destructive.**
- The final lesson we can learn from Lot's wife: Lot's wife looked back, making her unfit.
- Luke 9:62- Jesus replied, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”
- This small act of looking back revealed her true character; this small act of looking back tells us what Lot's wife's heart was. ***Though her body was outside of Sodom, her heart was in it.***
- ‘Looked back’ in Hebrew (nābaṭ)- “to regard with pleasure, to consider, to pay attention to...”
- Rather than looking forward to the freedom and salvation she was gaining, she paid attention to all that she was losing. Rather than embracing her new life, she paid attention to her old life. Rather than thanking God for her deliverance, she was upset with God for the destruction of the city she called home!
- Either you're a new person, or not. Either you're more than a conqueror or not. Either you're loved, chosen, and adopted into the family of God or not. You're a royal priesthood, no longer a slave to sin, but a slave to righteousness or not!...Embrace the new identity!
- Numbers 11:4-6- The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, “If only we had meat to eat! **5** We remember the fish

we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. **6** But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!”

- God doesn't take lightly complaining. However, He loves a grateful heart!
- "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Matthew 6:24
- "Piety is not a long struggle against that which is impure or forbidden. Rather it is a singleness of heart." -Charles Williams
- **Where is your heart? Remember Lot's Wife! She looked back, making her unfit.**
- Hebrews 12:1-3- "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."