

REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE

January 26, 2014

Luke 17:11-33

“For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.” Luke 17:24

Jesus was teaching his disciples about the suddenness of his return when he admonished them to “Remember Lot’s Wife” (32). Lot was Abraham’s nephew, who chose to live in the wicked city of Sodom. When God judged Sodom He sent angels to bring Lot, his wife and his daughters out before its destruction. They were instructed, “Escape for thy life; look not behind thee . . . But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt” (Gen. 19:17, 26).

Before Christ ascended to heaven, He promised to return (Jn. 14:3). He said, “behold, I come quickly” (Rev. 22:12). No one knows “the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh” (Matt. 25:13). His return will be with lightening speed. Therefore, everyone should live in constant readiness; should anticipate His return with a desire that diminishes attachment to earthly things. Lot’s wife loved Sodom so much that she couldn’t turn away, even when God’s judgment was falling upon it. Christ cited her action and warned, “Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it” (Lk. 17:33).

Lot’s wife had been blessed *spiritually*. Lot was nephew to Abraham, a man of great faith to whom God revealed Himself with promises of the coming Savior. Out of all humanity, only Abraham and his family was given this truth. Doubtless she witnessed these blessings as well as his godly response. She was blessed *physically*. Lot was prosperous and had advanced in his career in Sodom. But this seems to have become a curse to her. She was blessed with *extraordinary mercy* from God. He warned no other family of the coming destruction. No others received angels sent by God to protect and deliver them, even to pull them out of Sodom.

But her religious privileges, her godly family and her conformity to its ways were of no use to her. The extraordinary mercy did not help her. Even God-sent angels could not deliver her. Her offense – the mere turn of a head – was so small. Yet it signaled an enormous defect: love of this world rather than love for God. “If any man [or woman] love the world, the love of the Father is not in him [or her]” (I Jn. 1:15). Love for the things of this world denied her of life itself. Her love for Sodom suffocated any love for God. Affections set on things in Sodom could not be set on things above (Col. 3:2). These defects are the fruit of unbelief. In her heart, she did not believe Abraham’s God or the warning God sent by angels, thus she violated His command and lost not only Sodom, but life itself.

By citing Lot’s wife and warning the disciples to remember her, Christ teaches us to let nothing interfere with our preparedness for His coming. When He returns to judge the world, all will be lost except those who live for His coming. His people renounce this world-system rather than love it. They are not in bondage to it as was Lot’s wife was. They desire rather to be separated unto Christ, both in time and in eternity. In contrast to Lot’s wife, Paul wrote counted all as loss that he might know Christ. Consequently, he could write “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (II Tim. 4:8).