

# “REMEMBER LOT’S WIFE”

**Text:** Genesis 19:15-26, Luke 17:32

**Subject:** “Almost Just Isn’t Good Enough”

## Introduction

**Question:** How many of you believe that Jesus is coming again?

**Question:** How many of you want to be ready when Jesus returns?

**Question:** How many of you want to take as many people with you as possible when Jesus appears?

## Illustration:

1. A bible school graduate was preaching on the second coming in his first pastorate.
2. He was thundering away about Jesus’ return.
3. His text was Revelation 3:11, “**Behold, I come quickly.**”
4. With energy he pounded the pulpit and screamed “**Behold, I come quickly.**”
5. Again, he pounded the pulpit and screamed, “**Behold, I come quickly.**”
6. A third time he pounded the pulpit with two hands, knocked it over and fell off the platform into the lap of a dear saint sitting in the front row (as he yelled) “**Behold, I come quickly.**”
7. He apologized to the lady who responded with, “Oh, it’s not your fault, you warned me three times.”

**Question:** Why did Jesus say “**Remember Lot’s Wife**” in Luke 17:32? (**Two reasons**)

1. He was answering the Pharisees who asked about the second coming. (And)
2. He was telling us how to live in light of this event (the quick appearance of the Lord).

**Question:** How does Lot’s wife tell us how to live?

## **(Genesis 19 Has The Answer) An Incredible True Story**

1. Two angels arrive in the city of Sodom.
2. Lot is at the gate of the city (after a day’s work).
3. Lot offers lodging to the strangers (and the angels agree).
4. Just before bed time, there is a commotion outside.
5. Men want to commit sodomy with Lot’s guests. (v. 5)
6. The angels smite the lustful men and rescue Lot.
7. The angels tell Lot to escape to Sodom.
8. The angels warn that God will destroy and judge the city. (v. 13)
9. In verse 15, the angels hasten Lot’s family to get out.
10. In verse 17, “Escape for your life and don’t look back.”
11. In verse 24, the Lord judged sin as He promised He would.
12. In verse 26, Lot’s wife turned to go back and become a pillar of salt.
  - This is not a fairy tale, but historical events.
  - This is not a shadow, or a type or a parable.
  - This is real life, with real people, with a real message.

**Question:** What’s the message?

**Answer:** The message in it all, is Lot’s wife.

**Question:** Why did Jesus say, “**Remember Lot’s Wife**”?

**Question:** Why did Jesus say “Don’t forget her”?

**Question:** Why was Lot’s wife so important?

**Question:** What’s the benefit to us in remembering Lot’s wife”?

### **In Plain Vanilla**

Why did Jesus say, **Remember Lot’s wife?**

#### **1. She had a visitation from angels – but she was lost!**

- In Genesis 19:16, Lot’s wife walked hand-in-hand with angels outside the city.
- It was an incredible spiritual experience.
- You’d think this experience would lead to a commitment and dedication.
- But Lot’s wife was only an emotional follower.
- She loved the angel experience.
- She could have been on the T.V. show, “Touched By An Angel”.

**Question:** Why did God send angels to escort Lot, his wife and two daughters?

**Answer:** Verse 16 says, “*The Lord being merciful unto them.*”

Verse 19 says, “*The Lord being gracious and merciful in saving their lives.*”

### **In other words**

- Salvation is a gift from God to the undeserving.
- Salvation is not of works lest anyone should boast.
- Salvation is offered because God is merciful.

**Question:** How many of you are grateful that God has not rewarded us according to our iniquities?

### **Why did Jesus say “Remember Lot’s wife”?**

#### **2. She saw her husband and daughters get saved – but she was lost!**

- She walked behind her husband, instead of beside her husband. **(In other words)**
- Lot and his two daughters were out front in obedience to God.
- They were hastening to obey.
- They were quick to listen to God.
- They were focused on their destination.
- They were leaving the past behind them.
- But Lot’s wife was lingering and loitering.
- She was torn between two worlds.

**Question:** How many of you know that your relatives can’t save you?

**Question:** How many of you know that each of us is responsible for our own choices?

**Question:** How many of you know that it’s dangerous to lag behind and drag our feet spiritually?

### **Why did Jesus say, “Remember Lot’s wife”?**

#### **3. She was the most prayed for person in Sodom – but she was lost!**

- Abraham prayed for Lot’s wife.
- Abraham, the father of faith and friend of God.
- Abraham, the intercessor, was concerned about her.

## Today

1. There are “bird watchers”
  2. There are “girl watchers”
  3. There are “weight watchers”
  4. But Abraham was a “people watcher”
- He was burdened to pray for someone living on the edge.
  - He knows there is danger when we loiter just outside of safety.
  - He knows there is only one way of escape.
  - He knows that sin brings its own judgment.
  - He knows what awaits the unsaved (and is moved to pray).

**Question:** How many of you are moved to pray for your family not yet saved?

**Question:** How many of you believe in the privilege and the power of corporate prayer?

**Question:** How many of you believe that prayer affects the destiny of other people?

**Question:** How many of you believe that spiritual strongholds come down, when fervent intercession goes up?

- Then why not pause and unite in believing prayer!

### Why did Jesus say, “Remember Lot’s wife”?

#### 4. She knew the way to be saved – but she was lost!

- In Genesis 19:17, the Lord said, *“Escape for your life and don’t look back.”*
- In Matthew 3:7, John the Baptist said, *“Flee from the wrath to come.”*
- In II Peter 1:10, the Lord says, *“Give diligence to make your election sure.”*
- In Hebrews 12:25, the Lord says, *“See that you refuse not him that speaketh from heaven.”*
- In Luke 13:3, Jesus said, *“Except we repent, we shall all likewise perish.”*

**Question:** Why did Jesus say, “Remember Mrs. Lot”?

**Answer:** Because she knew the way to escape the judgment upon sin, but ignored it.

- And we are responsible for the light we have and the truth we hear.
- And Jesus says, “Flee from sin so that when sin is judged, you’ll be safe.”

### Oh Beloved

- Can we pause today to thank God that our sins have been judged at the cross?
- Can we pause for a moment to consider the words, “My sin oh the bliss of this glorious thought my sin not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, oh my soul!”

### Why did Jesus say, “Remember Lot’s wife”?

#### 5. She was lost inwardly – before she was lost outwardly!

- She had a nice house and beautiful things, but the problem was, she became attached!
- Attached to temporary stuff instead of eternal treasures.
- Attached to things that would draw her away from God.
- Deceived into thinking that the visible is more important than the invisible.
- Substituting what her natural eyes could see, for what faith could see.

**Question:** Why did she look back?

**Answer:** Because her heart was in the city.

**(A violation of Mark 8:36)**

“For what shall it profit if we gain the whole world full of stuff, and loose our own soul?”

**Question:** Is there anything inwardly that God needs to address and change?

**Question:** Are you living now for the world to come?

**Question:** Are you trying to find joy in the stuff you can see?

**Question:** What’s the difference between the joy of the saved and the joy of the unsaved?

- The joy of the unsaved is superficial (not fundamental)
- The joy of the saved is fundamental (not superficial)

**Why did Jesus say “Remember Lot’s wife”?**

**6. She appeared to others to be saved – but she was lost!**

- Imagine the angels walking with the family.
- Imagine what all the neighbors were saying.

“Well, they made it out of Sodom.” “At least they made it before the fire came.”

**Question:** What is God saying here?

**Answer:** That it’s not how we appear to others, because God knows what’s in the heart.

- Others might think opposite of what God thinks
- My appearance before people might be different before God.

**Question:** It’s not what your family, relatives and friends think of you,

- But what does God think of you?
- Where do you stand with God?
- Do you know 100% that you are saved?

**Why did Jesus say “Remember Lot’s wife”?**

**7. She was almost saved – but she was lost**

- A visitation from angels
- Her husband and daughters escape
- Prayed for by Abraham
- She knows the way to be saved
- She appears to others to be okay

But she turns to go back and disregards the way of escape!

**Question:** And why is it recorded for us?

**Answer:** Because God doesn’t want anybody to almost be a Christian,  
to almost be forgiven,  
to almost be born again,  
to almost be saved,  
to almost be ready for heaven,  
to almost be free from sin,

to almost be filled with the Spirit,  
to almost be a tither,  
to almost be a prayer,  
to almost be committed,  
to almost fear the Lord,  
to almost have a clear conscience.

### **Conclusion**

(There are two reasons why she was lost)

- #1. She didn't **believe** the message of salvation (and),  
#2. She didn't **obey** the message to run from sin's destruction.

- Safety was in Zoar (a type of Jesus).
- Destruction was in Sodom (the place where sin is judged).
- And Lot's wife chose to disobey and hold on to her sin.
- And forfeited her future in the process.

### **Oh Beloved**

- God has made a way to be free from sin.
- God has made a way to be ready for death.
- God has made a way to enjoy this life.
- God has made a way of peace and joy.

AMEN!  
Bill Kirk