

Remember Lot's Wife

Ponder: Looking back

Scripture: "But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt" (Gen. 19:26, NKJV).

The Lord had commissioned two angels to destroy wicked Sodom and her sister cities of the plain. Having led Lot out of Sodom with his wife and two daughters, one of the angels commanded Lot: "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed" (Gen. 19:17). But Lot's wife looked back. It was the last mistake she ever made.

Jesus admonished His disciples to "remember Lot's wife" (Lk. 17:32). He was likening Jerusalem's upcoming destruction to the overthrow of Sodom. Escaping that bloodbath would require careful obedience to Jesus' instructions. "In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back" (v. 31).

To be sure, Lot's wife erred. But can't you empathize with her? Sinful though it was, Sodom had been her home for years. She had other daughters, sons-in-law, and sons there (Gen. 19:12). The entire area was about to be obliterated. How tempting to take one last longing, wistful look!

Too often, though, "looking" back is merely the first step in "going" back. It's hard to make a clean break with sin. It's hard to abandon the material in order to obtain the spiritual. Even today we need Jesus' warning, "Remember Lot's wife!"

When we came to Christ we became new creatures; but that didn't make us immune to the powerful pull of our former ways. Don't look back! Nothing good awaits you there. Returning to the filth of sin after having been cleansed by Christ's blood puts you in a worse condition than if you had never known the Lord at all (2 Pet. 2:20-22).

Christian, you've been washed in the blood of the Lamb. You've been set free from sins's bondage. You can know you have eternal life. Don't look back! Remember Lot's wife!

Hymn: "I Have Decided To Follow Jesus" (No Turning Back)

Prayer: Gracious Father, help us to appreciate how blessed we are in Christ, and to stop longing for what we used to be. In Jesus' name, Amen.