

GOD PORTRAYS WOMEN

by

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CHAPTER TWO

LOTS WIFE AND DAUGHTERS

Genesis 13-19

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT we read that Jesus said to the Pharisees, **“As it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back. Remember Lot’s wife”** (Luke 17:28-32).

Today a similar condition exists and the return of our Lord is very much nearer. If Christ told His hearers then to **“remember Lot’s wife,”** how much more should we pay attention now!

We are not told when or whom Lot married nor the names of his daughters. They are first mentioned at the overthrow of Sodom.

Lot had been Abram’s constant companion ever since they left Ur of the Chaldees. Like his uncle, Lot had flocks and herds. **“Their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together. And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram’s cattle and the herdmen of Lot’s cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land”** (13:6-7).

Abram was distressed because of these quarrels and to avoid any further friction gave Lot first choice of all the surrounding country. He said, **“If thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left”** (13:9). Lot chose the valley of the Jordan and pitched his tent toward Sodom. **“But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly”** (13:13).

Sodom was a rich industrial city. Many years later Ezekiel wrote, **“The iniquity of . . . Sodom [was] pride, fullness of bread and abundance of idleness. . . . neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good”** (16:49-50).

Do you wish to be rich and have nothing to do? Remember Satan finds mischief still for idle hands to do.

Lot and his family moved into the city and likely were horrified at the conduct of the citizens. As we learned in school,

Vice is a monster, of so frightful mien,
That to be hated needs but to be seen;
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.

What a mistake Lot made to take his family into such a wretched city where he was daily vexed by seeing and hearing their wickedness!

In chapter 14 we read of the first war mentioned in the Bible. Four kings fought against five other kings and the four kings were victorious. The king of Sodom was among those who were defeated. The victors carried off all the goods and the remaining people, among them Lot and his family. One who escaped carried the news to Abram.

Abram at once took his three hundred and eighteen trained servants and, with his allies Mamre, Eshcol and Aner, pursued after them. **“He brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people”** (14:16).

Apparently, Lot returned at once to Sodom. What took him back—his position, his investments, the desire of his wife and daughters? We are not told.

As time passed, the iniquity of Sodom and Gomorrah increased and the cry of them rose to Heaven. When the Lord and two companions visited Abraham, He spoke of His distress over such conditions and told Abraham He was on His way down to see if things were as dreadful as He had heard.

As Abraham escorted his guests on their way, the Lord stopped to talk with him while His companions went on toward Sodom. Abraham pleaded with the Lord not to destroy the righteous with the wicked. He said, **“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”** (18:25).

He suggested there might be fifty righteous people in those cities. When the Lord agreed to spare them if He found fifty, Abraham continued to plead if He found forty-five, forty, thirty, twenty—and ten. God answered him better than he asked. He could not find even ten righteous men, but saved the one righteous man Lot and his family because of Abraham’s intercession. Will we ever know how many times the lost have been saved and helped because someone prayed for them? Are you praying for your lost loved ones and friends?

In chapter 19:1-2 we read: **“And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground: and he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant’s house, and tarry all night.”**

The angels did not feel very much at home in Lot’s house.

His hospitality was not comparable to the reception they had received from Abraham and Sarah. There they had uninterruptedly enjoyed their visit and feasted on a young calf, tender and good, with cake and butter and milk. Mrs. Lot and the girls were conspicuously absent. Lot prepared a feast and baked unleavened bread for them.

Surely it was a treat for Lot to look into the good wholesome countenances of his guests. But his joy was short-lived. Do you have occasion to be embarrassed when godly folk call on you? Poor Lot was disconcerted when the house was suddenly surrounded by young and old men who called to him, **“Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them”** (19:5).

Lot was beside himself and made the rashest proposals to urge them to withdraw. But they were deaf to his entreaties and threatened his life. The angels rescued Lot from the maddened crowd, and mercifully hindered the carrying out of Lot’s terrible suggestion for peace. The angels smote the mob with blindness so that they could not find the door.

The angels then asked Lot what relatives he had in the city, sons, daughters or sons-in-law, and added, **“Bring them out of this place for we will destroy this place”** (19:12-13).

There was no question about the justice of the destruction of the city. Is it not touching to see God’s concern for the men who had married Lot’s daughters? **“Lot went out and spake unto his sons-in-law . . . and said, Up, get you out of this place: for the Lord will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons-in-law”** (19:14). Evidently they were in the habit of treating all things spiritual as a joke and they scoffed at Lot and his convictions. Dear mothers, God is more interested in whom your daughters marry than you are. Will you be contented with the men who are not God’s choice for your sons-in-law?

“When the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city” (19:15-16).

Why did Lot linger? Why did he have to be urged? He had to abandon all he had set his heart on and all he had spent the best years of his life to obtain; and he went out stripped of all possessions, **“saved yet so as by fire.”** Way’s commentary on I Corinthians 3:15 says: “He shall thus forfeit his life’s work, though he himself shall be rescued, yet only as one who is dragged out through the flames of a burning house.”

The wheat is garnered, the chaff is burned. Is my life accumulating only chaff for the burning? Will there be nothing that will abide the test of that day when all will be measured by God’s standards?

Who was saved because Lot lived in Sodom? No one!

“And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord” (19:17-18).

He then pleaded for permission to go to a small city nearby instead.

“And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken” (19:21).

Lot’s prayer was for himself, his own life. You notice that Lot did not make intercession for others. The angel added, **“I cannot do anything till thou be come thither.”** Why? Verse 29 explains: **“God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow,”** but his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt (19:26).

Was it her friends, her things, or her unbelief in the destruction that caused her to look back? She had been brought out where she might be safe, but her heart was not in the escape from Sodom; that was exile to her.

Luke implied that she looked back in her anxiety over her possessions. A woman naturally has to be occupied with material things, food, clothing, household necessities and family comforts. But these can become an obsession to the exclusion of spiritual things. If such a condition prevails, a woman becomes dwarfed, uninteresting, and anything but refreshing to those about her.

A friend used to remark, “I may have to peel carrots, but I don’t have to think carrots.” She had a large household to provide for, but always had a word in season for him that was weary, because she held communion with her Lord while performing her household duties.

Lot’s wife had spared no time for God. What became of all for which she had spent her life? All that she valued and treasured was burned. The Lord says to you and to me, **“Remember Lot’s wife.”**

Are your days counting for God? Is your life to be a lost life? Lot’s soul was saved but his life was lost. God was willing to save Mrs. Lot’s life, but she refused to be saved. She despised the spirit of grace which brought her to a place of safety and warned her against turning back. She lagged behind and deliberately looked back. God has made her an example of those who are **“almost persuaded.”**

The Christian is told to love not the world, nor the things that are in the world. That which is cultural, intellectual, attractive, even **“as the garden of the Lord,”** if divorced from that which is spiritual, becomes as Sodom and Gomorrah and will perish with the using.

Dr. Melvin Grove Kyle tells that once when he was one of a party making investigations around the Dead Sea, a tremendous storm blew up, lifting the waters of the Dead Sea into the air. Before they knew it, they were all encrusted with salt, and if help had not come they would not have been able to move.

Someone has said, “The backward look at the stuff passing away transfixed Mrs. Lot, riveted her with dismay and horror. All that she had set her heart on was gone. Unable to move, she was overtaken and involved in the sulphurous smoke, the bitter salts rising stifled her and encrusted her around and built her tomb where she stood. And God writes on that monument for us to read centuries later, **“Remember Lot’s wife.”** What is your heart set on? Things, or a place in the world? **“Remember Lot’s wife.”**

When we read the last paragraph of chapter 19, we almost wish that Lot had died with his wife, so sad is the sequel. The Lord could say to Lot and his family, **“What could have been done for you that I have not done? I looked that ye should bring forth fruit and ye brought forth wild fruit.”**

Surely the goodness of the Lord in such deliverance should have drawn Lot after Him. Lot not only despised God’s grace, but was unresponsive to His judgments. He and his daughters were delivered from association with other evil people. They were separated, living in a mountain cave, but they were not delivered from the evil in their hearts.

The girls had not been brought up for the Lord, but for Sodom. They had been dragged out of Sodom, but Sodom was still in their hearts. What they had witnessed in that wicked city had left its mark on their hearts and minds; their thoughts and desires were depraved; and evil communications had corrupted their manners. Others in Sodom did not seduce Lot, but his daughters made him drunk. Their children, the Moabites and the Ammonites have ever been inveterate enemies of the children of God. There will be unending strife between that which is born of the flesh and that which is born of the spirit. Isolation does not preserve one from sin.

Many in ages past have secluded themselves from the world, and have found their own hearts a sink of iniquity, and have had to cry out, “Who shall deliver me from my own wretched self?”

Ah, there is only One who can. I thank God it is Jesus Christ my Lord who can deliver me from myself. And what a deliverance it is! We look away from ourselves and from other successful or failing Christians and become occupied with Jesus Christ our Lord, **“the author and finisher of our faith”** (Hebrews 12:2).

Do not count on your godly upbringing or pious ancestors for your salvation. Neither defer your decision for Christ until you get your education or are married, or until the family is grown. You may perhaps have felt “the pull” toward salvation, and have even made a start; listen to the angel’s word, **“Haste thee, look not back, stay not, flee.”**

Flee to Christ, the One who is able to save and to keep. **“Kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation”** (I Peter 1:5).

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