



Looking Forward

Day One: Lot's Wife and two daughters **Genesis 19:1-38; Luke 17:32**

Well, given the title, you probably already know how this is going to end.

Bitterly.

I am going to think that maybe not everyone is familiar with the story. So, let me go back just a bit.

Lot is Abraham's nephew (Gen. 11:31; Gen. 12:5).

When God called Abraham to move to Canaan. Abraham went and took Lot with him. Both men had a great number of flocks, herds, and tents (Gen. 13:5). When they arrived in Canaan, all of these animals and people were fighting for space and water.

Abraham did not want dissension between himself and Lot, so he offered a suggestion of dividing the land between them. He gave Lot first choice.

As the Knight says in "[The Last Crusade](#)", "he chose poorly".

Lot chose the richest of the land in the area. From a financial point of view, a good choice. The problem was Lot "moved his tents as far as Sodom" (Gen. 13:12) and men of Sodom were "wicked exceedingly and sinners against the Lord" (Gen. 13:13).

Spiritually, it was a bad choice.

Physically, it was a bad choice too. At one point, Abraham had to come save Lot and all his possessions after they were taken captive by the King of Elam and his followers (Gen. 14). So, it would seem Lot had found a place that invited dangerous circumstances. This is even more clear in Genesis 19.

Some things we are not told:

- When Lot married his wife
- Where Lot's wife is from
- The number of years spent in Sodom before the events of Genesis 19

We do know that Lot had sons, one married daughter, and two daughters who were not yet married (Gen. 19:8, 12).

Lot and his wife are well established at this point. They have all these children. They've successfully married one of their daughters to a man of the area. They have husbands lined up for the two who are not married (Gen. 19:14). They are wealthy and well-known in the area (Gen. 19:1).

This is where Lot's wife and daughters are on that fateful night when two strangers show up in Sodom.

Lot shows hospitality to these men. He indicates that it is not safe for the men to do as they plan, spending the night in the square (Gen. 19:2,3).

The men come in, are fed, and are preparing to go to bed when a mob of men from the city surrounds the house. These evil men demand that they be allowed to use the visitors in vile ways (Gen. 19:5). Lot tries to dissuade these men from their evil, but they just turn on him (Gen. 19:9). The men of the city, young and old, were so focused on their evil, that even when struck blind by the visitors (angels from the Lord), they STILL continued to try to find their way into the house (Gen. 19:11)!

This is the Sodom that Lot and his family knew.

The angels declare their intention to destroy the city to Lot. They warn him to get out of the city with all his family, or they will also be destroyed (Gen. 19:12-13).

Lot cannot convince the men who are to marry his daughters to come with him (Gen. 19:14). He is left with only his wife and two unmarried daughters to save. Still, Lot hesitated!

There is an attachment to the people and the place that is strong with Lot and his family, obviously. In order to save Lot's life, God's messengers grab these four by the hands and put them "outside the city" (Gen. 19:16).

Think about it.

Your house has been mobbed by crazy, violent men.
You've been told that GOD is going to destroy the city because it is so evil.
God's messengers pick you up and move you out of the city.
There is something seriously BIG going on here!

Destruction is all that is left for Sodom and Gomorrah.
Salvation is in the mountains.

Lot's wife watches as her husband still struggles with leaving (Gen. 19:17-22). He is not moving with confidence that something better lies elsewhere. It takes all of God's compassion and the patience of these messengers to get them out of danger.

"When they had brought them outside, one said, 'Escape for your life! **Do not look behind you**, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away.'" (Gen. 19:17)

With the sun fully risen, Lot comes to the city of refuge, Zoar. At that moment, God rains down brimstone and fire to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Lot's wife looks back, looks at the destruction of all she's known for years, her daughter, and the hopes of her two daughters, and she is turned into a pillar of salt (Gen. 19:26).

Well, I have chills now – do you?

Hang on, let's finish the story.

After Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed, Lot is afraid to remain in Zoar. He's having as hard a time believing what he's been told as everyone else, it would seem. Now, he takes his daughters into the mountains to hide. Here we see how deeply the sin of their world had trained these girls. They both decide that they will never be able to marry, so they take turns raping their father. Through this sin, the two nations, Moab and Ammon, were begun.

The events they had experienced – the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and their salvation from it – did nothing to curb the evil that was deep within them.

These are people who were not like Abraham – looking for a “better country” (Heb. 11:16). They were living in the world that surrounded them. The desire for that evil country is what killed Lot’s wife.

In Luke 17:22-37 Jesus tells His disciples about the day He will return.

Life is going to be going on like normal when the end of all things comes. People will be living their lives, going about their business – but then, suddenly (1 Thess. 5:3; 2 Pet. 3:5-9), Jesus will come and our choice will be the same as Lot’s wife – look forward towards Jesus or look back toward the things of the world (Lk. 17:31).

“Remember Lot’s wife” (Lk. 17:32).

One sentence that should remind us of all the events that led up to her destruction.

One sentence that tells us that our choices do matter.

Grace is right there. For Lot’s wife, it was God holding out the hands of two angels to take her to safety. It was a city made safe to protect her and her family. It was God promising to save Sodom and Gomorrah if TEN righteous people could be found (Gen. 18:32). Lot’s wife looked at God’s grace and said, “No thank you” by looking back at the evil Sodom and Gomorrah.

Salvation or destruction. We have a choice. It is not made for us.

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God cannot do more than He already has done to make a way for us. He created the earth with all the blessings in it. He gave us a soul and a heart so we could think for ourselves. He laid everything out so that we might choose Him (Acts 17:27). He went so far as to lay down His Son’s life as the sacrifice in our place.

Lot's wife lacked faith. She did not believe in the One who sent those men to save her. She did not believe that salvation was better than where she had been.

If we are to remember Lot's wife, we should do the OPPOSITE of her actions.

We should look FORWARD to heaven and eternity with God.

We should see it as BETTER than anything this world has in it.

There will come a day when your life will be lost or won (Lk. 17:33).

"We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the **one who abides in love abides in God**, and God abides in him. **By this, love is perfected in us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment**; because as He is, so also are we in this world." (1 John 4:16-17)

"And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it." (2 John 6)

Remember Lot's wife. No more excuses.

Someone else lacking faith is not your own. Someone else pulling you along is not enough.

Children in this life are precious, but not more so than your own soul (Mt. 10:37; Mt. 16:26).

Today, put on the armor of God (Eph. 6:10-17) and face the battles that pave the way to salvation. Relish them as taking you to a far better country! In that way lies peace forever (Is. 32:17).

Enjoy!