



LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LADIES: Part Two

LOT'S WIFE: LESSON 16

First Day

This week we will be looking at another woman in Scripture where there isn't much written about her personally, but we can learn a lot by looking at her life. We don't know much about Lot's wife, we don't even know her name, but we do know that the Holy Spirit included her in God's Word for a reason. Let's dig in and see what we can find!

1. Read Genesis 11:27-31. What were the names of Lot's father and grandfather?
2. How is Lot related to Abram?
3. What happened to Lot's father in verse 28?
4. Was Lot married when his family left Ur and set out for Canaan?
5. Where did the family settle instead? What is significant about this name?
6. Read Genesis 12:1-5. Where did Lot and his family travel to now? Why?
7. When Abram and Lot came to Bethel, the multitude of their livestock caused quarreling among their servants over grazing land. Review this story in Genesis 13:5-12. Where did Lot choose to settle?

8. What footnote is provided about Sodom in verse 13?

It is unclear when Lot met and married his wife, but it is likely that it was in Sodom because she is not mentioned previously to his move to that city. Now that we have covered her husband's history, tomorrow we will look more at our leading lady.

Memory Verse of the Week: "But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt." Genesis 19:26

Second Day

Work on your memory verse

When we left Lot last, he was happily getting settled in his new home in Sodom. He will get married, have some kids, and live happily ever after. Hmm ... not quite. As we saw in Genesis 13:13, Sodom was an exceedingly wicked place. I smell trouble ahead for Lot. In our first troublesome situation, we see Lot and his family get caught up in a civil war.

1. Read Genesis 14:8-12. What victory do the four kings have in verses 11-12?
2. What happens next according to 14:13-16?

It seems that Lot is most likely married at this time. In verse 16, it mentions that all of Lot's possessions and the women were brought back with him. In the coming events, we will read about his daughters who are at least teenagers at the time. Since this event takes place approximately 17 years prior, it seems logical that the women referred to are his wife, servants, and possibly young daughters. This was just the beginning of Lot's hardships. Judgment is coming to his city.

"Then the Lord said, 'The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached Me. If not, I will know.'" (Genesis 18:20-21)

"Outcry against" (NIV, NRSV) or "cry of" (KJV) is the Hebrew noun *za'ārā*, "cry, outcry." The basic meaning of this root is "to cry for help in time of distress." This implies that the Lord's actions against Sodom and Gomorrah are a result of the crying pleas of those that were wronged, oppressed, and victimized by the sinful actions of the residents of these cities.

3. Have you ever doubted that the Lord heard you when you cried out in times of distress? How do these words of the Lord bring you comfort?

The Lord sends two angels to carry out judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah, but on their way they stop to visit Abraham. After the visitors leave, Abraham is left to plead for his nephew and the city.

4. Read Genesis 18:22-33. How does Abraham appeal to the Lord in verses 22-25?

5. In verse 32, where does this “negotiation” settle?

Previously in Genesis chapter 15, the Lord had spoken to Abram about a time in the future when his descendants would be enslaved for 400 years before returning to the land. At that time, the Lord would bring punishment for the Amorites, but not before then, for their sin had “not yet met its full measure.” It appears that the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah had met its full measure however, because their judgment was coming hard and coming quick.

Throughout the ages God has shown mercy to people that have sinned. (Exodus 34:6-7; Lamentations 3:22; Jonah 4:2; Romans 2:4; 3:25; 9:22; 1 Timothy 1:16) God is not slow to judgment because He is tolerant of sin, but because He is merciful and desires all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

6. Do you ever get frustrated by what “appears” to be God’s tolerance of sin? Do you ever wish for God’s swift judgment upon those who have sinned against you or who are wreaking havoc on our world?

Let’s pray to have God’s heart toward our sinful world and desire many to come to repentance before His judgment comes.

7. What about when the shoe is on the other foot? When you are the one sinning, do you want a God of judgment or a God of mercy?

8. What do the following verses say about God’s mercy?

a. Exodus 34:6-7

b. Psalm 86:15

- c. Psalm 89:14
- d. Psalm 145:8-9
- e. Micah 7:18-19

Take a few minutes to thank the Lord for His abundant mercy!

Third Day

Have you been practicing your memory verse?

Despite Abraham's pleading, our study opens today in Genesis chapter 19 with two angels arriving in the city of Sodom to declare its judgment. Could the Lord really not find 10 righteous people in the whole city?! Sad.

1. Read Genesis 19:1-11.
2. Where do the two angels meet up with Lot? What is significant about this?

Lot was not just living in this city. We know from previous readings that the gate of the city was where powerful men met to do business and manage the town. Lot had become a leader among these sinful people.

3. Is your husband a leader of some kind? What kind of reputation does he have? How can you help your husband be a respected man? If you are a leader, whether in your home, workplace, or in social circles, how can you be a leader of integrity?

As Lot meets these "men" at the city gate, he offers them a place to stay for the night; perhaps because he knew how dangerous the city streets could be. Unfortunately, his house didn't happen to be any safer.

4. What happens in verses 4-5?
5. In his effort to protect his guests from harm, what unthinkable thing does Lot offer the men of the city instead?

There are several ideas about why Lot offered his daughters to satisfy the lusts of these vile men. One is that he had become so entrenched in the culture of his city that he had become desensitized. Another is that the sin of homosexuality is so particularly heinous that he was willing to avoid subjecting his guests to it at all costs. Though we cannot possibly understand his reasoning, one thing is for sure. Lot was a desperate man in a desperate situation.

6. I know it is a sensitive subject, but it is important for us to understand what the Word of God says about homosexuality. What do the following verses say?
 - a. Jude 7

 - b. Leviticus 18:22

 - c. Romans 1:26-27

It might not be a particularly popular stance in today's times to call homosexuality a sin, but we must always base our position on the Word of God and not by the world's standard.

7. Without condoning their sin, how can we reach out and show God's love to our homosexual friends and loved one?

8. If we don't turn our back on our friends who commit sins of fornication, lying, or theft, why do Christians sometimes do this to those in the homosexual community? What should we do rather than cut them off completely? Give Scriptures to support your answer.

Whatever lifestyle of sin someone may be in bondage to, we must always remember that they are made in God's image the same as us. He loves them just as much as He does us. And just as He rescued us from the pit of sin, He wants to do the same for them. Pray and ask the Lord how you can be a part of that!

9. Imagine for a minute what Lot's wife must have been thinking and feeling at this point. Share your thoughts.

10. Has your family ever experienced a situation so desperate that you are willing to do anything? What guidelines do we need to keep in mind? How can we be sure we remain faithful and obedient in times of true crisis?

11. If there is ever a time when you disagree with your husband's decisions and believe them to be ungodly, unwise, or downright sinful, what is the best way to handle it? Is there a place in the Bible that gives us practical recourse in these instances?

12. Whether in a marriage or in any other kind of relationship, what responsibility do we have when we witness another believer participating in sin? (See Galatians 6:1-3, Matthew 18:15-17, and James 5:19-20)

13. What additional instructions are we given in Luke 17:3-4 regarding how to handle the sin of others?

We can only imagine the anguish of Lot's wife as her guests are being threatened, her husband is pushed to his limit, and her daughters are being offered up as a consolation prize. But as we will see tomorrow, Lot's wife hasn't seen anything yet.

Fourth Day

What is your memory verse?

Today we see the shift from Lot attempting to protect his guests to them protecting him and his family.

1. Read Genesis 19:12-17. What do the two men say to Lot in verse 12?
2. What does Lot do next?
3. How do his sons-in-law respond? Why do you think this might be?
4. When Lot hesitated in verse 16, what did the two men do?
5. It seems Lot may have gotten a little too comfortable in Sodom. Why do you think that Lot and his family seem to have no sense of urgency when given the warning?
6. Do you have a sense of urgency in warning people about the coming judgment of God? Can you share some Scriptures with your group that give a reminder of our responsibility?
7. Continue reading in 19:18-29. What is Lot's request in verses 18-20? Is it granted?

8. What is happening by the time Lot reaches Zoar?

9. What does Lot's wife do in verse 26? What happens as a result?

It is unclear exactly what "became a pillar of salt" means exactly. Becoming a pillar of salt was an Eastern idiom meaning to have a stroke or being struck with paralysis. When a man would become paralyzed or suffer a stroke it would be said that they were "turned into a rock" or "became like a stone." She also could have been literally turned into salt, buried in salt as the brimstone fell from the sky, or her body covered in a dusting of it later.

10. Matthew 5:13 tells us we are the salt of the earth. Look at a few commentaries to learn what this means about what kind of salt we should be and jot down a few things to share with your group.

The phrase "becoming a pillar of salt" is still commonly used today as a warning to those who are tempted to look back. We'll take a look at looking back tomorrow. For now, work on that memory verse!

Fifth Day

Write out your verse from memory.

Yesterday we read about the miraculous rescue of Lot's family before the city of Sodom was destroyed by a downpour of sulfur, fire, and brimstone. Unfortunately, though, Lot's wife didn't make it out alive because she looked back.

1. Read Genesis 19:23-26 again. Think about why Lot's wife may have looked back. Share your thoughts with the group.

The Hebrew word for “looked back” means more than to glance over one’s shoulder. It means “to regard, to consider, to pay attention to.” The implication here is that she was contemplating all that she was leaving behind. Her possessions, home, friends, parents, other family, and her husband’s position of power among the city rulers.

Sodom represents our sinful life before we met Christ. He pulled us out and rescued us from the destruction we were facing.

2. Do you ever look back at your life before your salvation with longing, regret, or shame? What alternative does Philippians 3:13-14 provide?

In her book, *Loving God with all your Mind*, Elizabeth George gives two ways we *should* look back.

- a. To remember what we learned from our experiences.
- b. To recall God’s marvelous works and gracious faithfulness to us.

When we do this, it strengthens us for what is ahead.

Many people wonder how Lot, who was a part of the family of Abraham, a man of such great faith, could have ended up adjusting to life in sinful Sodom. Perhaps one of the reasons is because of the influence of his wife. Lot moved to Sodom from elsewhere, whereas his wife grew up there. She spent her whole life in the sinful place, being influenced by it. In the movie *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, the mother of the main character tells her daughter, “The man is the head, but the woman is the neck, and she can turn the head whichever way she pleases.” This is a humorous way of showing the effect a woman can have on her husband.

3. Do you ever put pressure on your husband (or yourself) to provide certain things? It can be financial, social, or expectations in other areas. How can this lead to compromise?

4. Do you use your influence on your husband for good or to manipulate and get your own way?

Take a “look back” at last week’s lesson on Sarah and compare/contrast her with Lot’s wife.

5. What is said about Sarah in Hebrews 11:11 and 1 Peter 3:6?

6. What is the example given by Lot’s wife in Luke 17:30-33?

7. Read Genesis 19:30-36. Summarize what happens with Lot and his daughters after they escape Sodom.

Sarah’s lineage led to the birth of the Messiah. Lot’s wife left a legacy that led to the incestual conception of the fathers of the Moabites and the Ammonites, two nations that became enemies of the Hebrews for many years to come.

8. What is the biggest lesson you learned by reading about Lot’s wife this week?

9. What is one change you feel the Lord calling you to make as a wife, mother, or Christian woman?

In Luke 17, the example of Lot's wife is given as a warning to those who will live on the day of the Son of Man. "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. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it."

Though we are still awaiting the return of the Lord, the time to follow Him is NOW. The time to willingly give our life over for His sake is NOW. Ladies let us seek first the kingdom of God and run hard after Jesus.

"I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back."

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