

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Luke 17:26-32 and Gen. 19:26.**
- B. From Roy H. Enoch (7-10-94).
- C. Lot and his family had been blessed greatly when following with Abraham and doing the Lord's will.
 - 1. After coming out of Egypt, both Abraham and Lot had great possessions (Gen. 13:5-7).
 - 2. Abraham gave Lot the choice of where he wanted to live (Gen. 13:8-11).
 - 3. Lot's choice was selfish in inconsiderate, and had great risk (Gen. 13:12-13).
 - 4. Many times when decisions are made on the basis of material gain, the dangers are great, and we may lose all.
- D. Peter and Jude give us some insight about the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah and the other cities of the plain (2Pet. 2:6-10; Jude 7; Rev. 11:8).
- E. In this lesson, we will look at the consequences of Lot's choice in "pitching his tent toward Sodom" especially from the standpoint of his family, and to "remember Lot's wife."

I. LOT'S WIFE HAD MANY BLESSINGS IN HER FAMILY.

- A. Abraham's strong faith and dedication to God was a great blessing:
 - 1. He was dedicated to God's worship and service.
 - 2. He had given Lot the choice of the land and Lot had been greedy.
 - 3. Abraham had taken a small force of 318 "trained servants" and rescued Lot and all that he had from the four kings by a surprise attack at night.
- B. Lot's wife had been blessed with wealth and abundance.
 - 1. They had prospered as long as they had been with Abraham.
 - 2. They got the richest pasture land with water when they left.
 - 3. But they also got a wicked environment.
 - 4. Sodom's wickedness is still a name for sexual perversion in homosexuality.
- C. Lot's wife was also blessed by God's warning and deliverance.
 - 1. We know that Abraham was working for their welfare:
 - a. He had delivered them from the four kings.
 - b. He had pleaded with the Angel of the Lord to spare the city for the righteous in it.
 - c. He probably also prayed for them.
 - 2. The two angels, in the form of men, warned them to flee.
 - a. At their hesitation, they took them by the hand and led them out of the city.
 - b. They warned them to flee to the mountains.
 - c. They even granted the request that Zoar be spared for their refuge.
 - 3. Lot's wife not only believed, but she heeded the warning.
 - a. They did leave the city and almost reached Zoar.
 - b. We can sympathize with their reluctance to leave all their possessions behind.
 - c. They probably had friends in the city.
 - d. They had left family, (maybe other children?) as indicated by the sons-in-law.
 - e. So, she looked back!

II. HER BACKWARD LOOK INDICATED A DIVIDED HEART.

- A. God will not accept half-hearted service.
 - 1. Mt. 22:37-38 is the most important command from God's viewpoint.
 - 2. It had better be the most important to us.
 - 3. The heart is not able to embrace both God and the world with half-hearted devotion (Mt. 6:24).

- B. Her heart seems to have been with her possessions:
 - 1. Like the rich young ruler, she would not give up her possessions to serve God.
 - 2. The safety of the mountains must have seemed bleak compared to their possessions in Sodom.
- C. Some have questioned whether it was only a backward "look" or an attempt to return and get some of their possessions.
 - 1. At the destruction of Jerusalem, Jesus said not to try and return to get anything.
 - 2. It is of little consequence, since the result was the same.
- D. A divided heart is never really happy.
 - 1. It does not find the joy and contentment of salvation.
 - 2. It does not enjoy worldly things as much as it could enjoy the blessings of eternal life.
- E. Indecision hinders progress in either direction.

III. **WE CAN, AND DO, MAKE THESE SAME MISTAKES TODAY.**

- A. This may be why Jesus said, "Remember Lot's wife."
 - 1. Her manner of death is really incidental (unimportant).
 - 2. The consequence of her death is of eternal importance.
 - 3. We will suffer the same eternal consequences if we have a divided heart and try to serve two masters.
- B. It is so easy to become preoccupied with our jobs, possessions, or even our families.
 - 1. These things are important.
 - 2. But the things of the Lord are more important.
 - 3. What ever comes first in our lives is our lord.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Jesus commands us to "Remember Lot's wife."
 - 1. A divided heart is a wretched heart--to find real joy and purpose we must be completely dedicated to X.
 - 2. To be useful to X, we must be a "whole-hearted" Xian.
- B. "Choose you this day whom you will serve."
 - 1. You will also choose your eternity.
 - 2. You will choose either, victory in Jesus, or damnation with the world.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.