

Story Time

Part 6 - Lot's Wife; Longing for the Life to be Left Behind

Jesus encourages His listeners to "**Remember Lot's wife**"

Luke 17:32

Lot's wife and her **affection** for Sodom Genesis 13:12-13, 19:1-29

Two ANGELS visit Lot vs. 1-3

MEN come to visit the angels vs. 4-11

Angels RESCUE Lot's family vs. 12-23

God DESTROYS S&G vs. 24-25

Lot's wife DESIRES to return vs. 26

The DANGER of longing for the life to be left behind

- What was so ATTRACTIVE for its beauty must now be ABANDONED for its danger
- Lot and his wife had this LONGING vs. 16, 26
- GUARD our hearts from this longing 1 John 2:15-17
 - Flesh** – appeasing our APPETITES
 - Eyes** – appeasing my SENSES
 - Pride** of life – SELF-EXALTATION

Pushing the world to the **edges** of our heart means working at becoming CHRISTOCENTRIC

- **Immerse** yourself in Godly INFLUENCES
- **Increase** your spiritual PRACTICES
- **Impose** your needed GUARD RAILS

Auburn Grace Community Church – July 9th, 2023

Life Group Discussion Questions – July 9, 2023

1 John 2:15-17 "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever."

DISCOVER (Read Genesis 19:1-29)

1. What is your definition of the word "longing"? Is longing something that can be satiated or appeased? What role does the passage of time play in a person's longing?
2. Read the parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32. What can you infer about the father's longing for his lost son? Now read 1 Corinthians 7:8-9. Compare and contrast the idea of passionate longing in these two passages. What do they reveal about the heart of God?
3. In what ways do we fan the embers of our desires so that our hearts burn for the things of this world?
4. Why is the lust of the flesh so powerful?

EXPLORE

1. Read Philippians 3:12-14. If we forget or disregard our past, aren't we in danger of repeating our mistakes? Is this what happened to Lot's wife? What was her big issue? Why does Jesus tell us to remember her? (Luke 17:32)
2. Re-read 1 John 2:15-17. Where should our minds be set? How do idols in our lives "over-promise" and "underdeliver"? Is there another way to break this cycle or tendency?
3. In the Genesis 19 account, where do you see God loving individuals in Sodom and Gomorrah? How does He continue to show His love for individuals and not just people groups?
4. Lot chose to move to Sodom and Gomorrah. How do we know he loved his life there? When should we abandon our homes or areas that we live in? What kinds of roots have you put down that would make it difficult for you to leave? What would you say to a brother/sister who was considering packing-up and starting afresh elsewhere? (See Proverbs 23:17 and Luke 9:57-62)

EXPERIENCE

1. Read Isaiah 55:6-9. According to this passage, when we come before God, what must we first do? Will He only be found if the timing is good and our hearts are lukewarm for Him? How can our hearts burn for the Lord continually? If your heart doesn't burn for God, is this a reflection of your love for Him?
2. Why is it true that we cannot serve two masters? Is it possible to be very wealthy and still truly love Jesus? How so? (see Matthew 6:24) How do some people misuse Matthew 6:33 to justify their spending habits?
3. In what ways does loving the world cripple your spiritual growth? What kind of fruit is produced as a result? Is this your story as well? What changes will you need to make? (See John 15:1-11)

PRAY

Pray... Our gracious God and Father, You have chosen us out of this world. And You teach us that we must be mindful of the suffering we may endure along our faith journey. Help us to live by faith, embracing Truth in every opportunity before us. Give us the courage to stand in that Truth, especially when it's difficult because the world loves the darkness. Let us be Your light in every way and help us to remember this world is not our home. And until we are in Your presence in Heaven, protect us from the enemy, O Lord. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.