

## A Lot to Remember

*Remember Lot's wife. (Luke 17:32)*

How can one explain our culture's sudden openness to homosexuality? Just a few years ago such activity was called "sodomy" and those involved felt guilt and shame. Even the American Psychiatric Association until 1973 deemed homosexuality a mental disorder. Today, however, what a difference! The "gay lifestyle" is not just condoned, but promoted as a healthy form of self-expression. Some churches even bless same-sex unions and ordain practicing homosexuals into ministry. How did this happen?

Perhaps the best answer to this question is that we suffer from spiritual amnesia. Jesus expressly commanded us to *Remember Lot's wife* (Luke 17:32). But most people today would respond by saying "Who's that?" We have forgotten to remember.

When God turned Lot's wife into a pillar of salt, He intended that her life would be a constant reminder of the slippery slope that leads from godliness to godlessness, from blessings to judgment! In Genesis we see the outline of those downward steps that Lot and his wife took on their path to ruin.

**Looking.** *Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere...like Egypt* (Gen. 13:10). Abraham allowed Lot to choose where he would settle. He and his wife chose the lush area around Sodom. The path toward moral depravity always begins with the lustful look (Gen. 3:6).

**Considering.** *Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord* (Gen. 13:12-13). Mr. and Mrs. Lot naively assumed they could live in proximity to sin without being infected by its corruption.

**Condoning.** The third step on the downward path was when Lot and his family moved into Sodom (Gen. 14:12). As citizens of Sin City, they gave tacit approval to sodomite behavior even though they themselves did not participate.

**Endorsing.** *Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom* (Gen. 19:1). Since a city's gate was the administrative and judicial center for civic affairs, Lot had apparently become a member of Sodom's ruling council, perhaps even the mayor.

**Identifying.** The Lord warned Lot that judgment was about to fall on Sodom and told him to flee for safety. But his wife found it so difficult to leave her beloved city that she "looked back" (Gen. 19:26). God turned her into a pillar of salt. For Mrs. Lot, Sodom described not only where she lived. It had come to define her very identity! She could not (would not!) give that up. God's only option left was fire and brimstone.

Dear friends, don't forget to remember!

Pastor Stan