

TAKING GOD SERIOUSLY

Genesis 19:1-28

Introduction: Everybody remembers the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and the fire and brimstone and the total destruction of the cities. Also is remembered the woman who was turned into a pillar of salt. God needs to be taken seriously but it seems that there are times when God needs to be taken more seriously and then was one of those times. God had told Lot to take his family and get out of town and don't look back. Well, his wife looked back.

1. The lifestyle of the city of Sodom was that of sin.

- The city was totally degenerated, disgusting, filled with homosexuality, indecency, degrading, professional prostitution, not with just the adults, but the young and elderly and everyone.

2. Lot's uncle Abraham had given Lot first choice as to where to settle down.

- Given first choice as to where to settle down, Lot chose to be near a city, and the city was Sodom.
- Lot moved into town and accepted their way of life, keeping himself and his family away from their immorality.
- Lot became popular within the city and was elected to the city council. He had adjusted very well.

3. God became disgusted with the evilness of Sodom.

- God sent angels to Lot and told him what God was going to do to Sodom and for him to take his family and get away as far as they could.

4. God's instructions were simple.

- "Flee to the hills and don't look back. However, nobody really wanted to leave.
- Nobody believed what the angels told them.
- The angels had to forcibly remove Lot and his family.

5. God brought down fire and brimstone from above and an earthquake from beneath and the city sank beneath the Dead Sea, completely gone.

6. Lot's wife disobeyed God and looked back.

- She didn't want to leave in the first place.
- She didn't take God's words seriously.
- Although she was physically outside the city, her heart was still back in the city of Sodom.

7. Today's philosophy is as Lot's wife's - "no need to take God seriously."

8. If one doesn't take God seriously then:

- One doesn't take marriage seriously or raising one's children - or being faithful.
- One doesn't take sexual purity seriously, or being humble, or repenting, or honesty.
- Look around! Are people taking God seriously?

9. Lot and his family had to give up all they had in order to be obedient to God and to save their lives.

(Mark 8:36; 9:43-47)

CONCLUSION:

1. Are there some things in your life you know you should give up? Some things you need to leave behind? Certain friends, attitudes, actions?
- Have you tried? Have you even wanted to?
2. ***Galatians 6:7*** We can fool one another, even our own self, but we can never fool God.
3. When it is all said and done, we shall stand before God and answer for the things we have done. If we take God seriously, it will be a time of reward. If not, it will be a time when we will receive what our life of not taking God seriously deserves.
4. Have you been being like Lots' wife? Not taking God seriously?