



[Luke 17:32](#)

(32) Remember Lot's wife.

[Genesis 19:26](#)

(26) But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.
New King James Version

Just before Lot's wife reached her place of safety—though she had made some effort to escape the impending disaster—Lot's wife disobeyed the angel's command and looked back. "She became a pillar of salt" ([Genesis 19:26](#)).

Why did she look back? The context does not specifically give a reason, but she probably had an inordinate [love](#) for [the world](#) and the material things she had in Sodom. Obviously, Lot was a wealthy man who had enough livestock and servants to cause a problem while he lived with [Abraham](#) ([Genesis 13:5-7](#)). He and his wife may have had a palatial house with many fine furnishings, servants to do her bidding, fine clothes, sumptuous food, and frequent entertainment.

Also, Lot had achieved prominence among the citizens of Sodom beyond his wealth. [Genesis 19:1](#) shows him sitting in the gate of the city, a place usually reserved for the elders and judges. Lot's wife may have been reconsidering her decision to forsake the privileges of her high social status and her prominent friends.

Maybe she just loved the ways of this world more than [God](#). John writes:

Do not love the world or 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, the lust of the eyes, and the [pride](#) of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. ([1 John 2:15-17](#))

There may be more to it, however, than we have thought. Most people assume that Lot had only two daughters, but this is not the case. He says to the Sodomites, "See now, I have two daughters *who have not known a man*" ([Genesis 19:8](#)). He had two unmarried daughters. Later, in verse 14, he "spoke to his sons-in-law, *who had married his daughters*," meaning he had other married daughters who were not virgins. Finally, the angels tell him, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters *who are here*" (verse 15), implying he had daughters elsewhere.

Since Lot and his wife had more than two daughters, they left more than just material possessions in the city. When God rained down fire and brimstone upon Sodom, their married daughters and sons-in-law—andpossibly grandchildren—perishedwith the rest of the city's populace. What a poignant and tragic test of their faith!

Thus, when Lot's wife fled for little Zoar, her wealth, her house, and her social circle were not the only things on her mind. Those concerns were insignificant beside the certain death of her flesh and blood. Perhaps she did not believe that God would follow through on His threat. As a loving mother, her emotions for her doomed family in the city clouded her ability to make proper decisions.

[Jesus](#) makes a pertinent comment in this regard in [Matthew 10:37-39](#):

He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

Though it goes against our human nature, God requires us to have more allegiance to Him than to the members of our own families. For His disciples, leaving family members behind to do God's will may be the most common hardship that they have to face as they come out of this world ([Revelation 18:4](#)). Perhaps this is why He reminds us to "remember Lot's wife." The day may soon come when we will have to heed God's warnings without hesitation to flee again.

"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" ([Luke 17:31](#)). When God commands His elect to flee to a place of safety, many of us will be required to entrust family members to God's [mercy](#). Without doubt, this will be one of the greatest tests of our spiritual lives. We will know that before us lie life and [hope](#)

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and behind us death and destruction, just as Lot and his family experienced in fleeing Sodom.

— Ted E. Bowling

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[Remember Lot's Wife](#)

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