

## Remember Lot's Wife

Luke 17:26-37, Advent Sunday II

December 6, 2009

Beloved of the Lord.....This week one way or another, we all heard more than we wanted to hear about the golf legend, Tiger Woods. In the course of just two or three days, his secret life, the public discovery of his guilt has turned his whole world upside down. One day he's on top of the world, the next he's is fallen from grace. While these things happen all the time to both public and private figures, and his life and transgressions are truly none of our business, his sudden fall, the public discovery of his crimes have their parallels in Judgment Day. On that day it will not matter at all, how carefully or secretly sinners hid their transgressions from the eyes of men, on Judgment Day all secrets become public. While God in mercy holds back his anger until He by the Gospel has saved the very last soul that could be saved, "then shall the end come." "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him."

While there is indeed a certain order to the events of Judgment Day, what I would impress upon you today is God's public record of men's sins contained in the books. In Revelation 20 John writes, "I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the Book of Life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.....And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Let us now think of this for a moment? Would we want God to open those books and declare to all men all our secret sins of which we are ashamed? By way of God's law, are we any better than Mr. Woods? Will the record of a believer's sins be publicly broadcast on that Day? Thanks be to God the Gospel tells us the record of our sins has been blotted out by the holy blood of Christ, and in its place there is a record of His merits. Therefore He, dear Christian, through His own blood, has written our names in that blessed Book of Life. Our names remain in that Book of Life as long as we continue in the true faith unto the end. Thus Jesus says in Revelation three, "He that overcometh, the same

shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." Thanks be to God on that Day of Judgment, instead of publicly declaring our sins, Christ will publicly declare our righteousness to His Father, His righteousness given to us by faith! "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

I. The unexpected nature of Judgment Day. As we see in our text today, when Judgment Day comes it will be business as usual for the world. As in the days of Noah and Lot, people will be getting married, eating and drinking, buying, selling, planting and building, as if tomorrow will be the same as today. "But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all." Clearly, and there can be no doubt, Judgment Day will catch many off guard - sudden destruction, terror of soul, and death! While there is nothing wrong with marriage, eating and drinking, etc, the mother of all sins is the sin of unbelief, the rejecting, the despising of the Son of Man who came only to save! When the Son of Man returns, shall He find faith? In all the thousands of Sodom and Gomorrah there were only four believing souls and one of the four fell from grace! In all the millions at the time of flood, only eight souls were saved by water. Both destructions were a type of Judgment Day.

What is God trying to teach us here? FIRST the Day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night, and just as you cannot predict when a thief will break into your house, so no man can predict the day of the Lord's return. Therefore let all sinners repent today and not tomorrow, for Jesus was born into this world for a reason and God's Gospel invitation is sincere. But God's SECOND lesson is this, we dare not live each day as if the Son of Man will never return to judge, for if we love our life here on earth, we will lose our life there in that world to come. I John 2:15 says, "Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love 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 pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." Those who think they can love God and the world at

the same time will perish the same as Lot's wife.

## II. Lot's wife loved the world but Jesus loved us.

Lot's wife would not be suffering damnation now, had she not willfully despised her own salvation just so she could take one last look at her old lover, the world. God turned her into a pillar of salt as a lesson to us all. Christians can fall from grace by forsaking Christ and falling in love with the world. Remember David and Bathsheba, remember Lot's wife. Those three words are some of the most powerful in all of Scripture for it is God's stern warning to us all not to look back with love upon this evil and sinful world, lest she overthrow our faith. As the hymn said, "the world is very evil, the times are waxing late, be sober and keep vigil, the Judge is at the gate." Instead of looking back, God desires we repent of our love for this world and look in faith forward to the love of Christ. During this special time of Advent we should by faith ponder God's undying love for us: Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the Word was made flesh. Who could measure this infinite love God has for us in that God Almighty cloaked Himself in human flesh and was born a Babe in the most lowliest fashion! Yet He was born only so He could die in our stead, that sinners through His blood would be declared saints.

I read a beautiful quote this week concerning the miraculous incarnation of Christ, by Dr. Alan MacRae. He writes, "The second person of the Trinity entered the womb of a virgin and she conceived a son. The eternal One took on Himself human flesh. He was God, the Infinite One. He was God the sinless One. He had no sin of His own which must be dealt with. As man, He could pay the penalty of sin. As God He had the power to make this payment. Through the miracle of the Virgin Birth the God-man came into existence, and only thus could we be saved." Thus for the Christian it is of the highest comfort that Christ, for our sake and our salvation became True Man, yet remained True God at the same time. In this one undivided and indivisible person, Jesus as a Man was able to stand in the stead of men as our Substitute, yet Jesus as God was able to pay the infinite price man was unable to pay. Faith alone in Him is all that is necessary for our salvation. On Judgment Day our plea is Jesus' blood alone.

That is why we must hold fast and continue in the faith of Jesus Christ alone. The Bible says, "Hold thou fast which thou hast, let no man take thy

crown." Colossians 1:23 says, "continue in the faith grounded and settled". Continue in His love dear and blessed child of God and not the love of the world. As Jesus did not hold His life more dear than your salvation but He gave His own life for your salvation, so hold in your heart Jesus' love for you more dear than your own life. For "Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it."

Finally let us remember when Jesus ascended up into heaven, He did not shed or lay aside His human nature but kept and retained it as a powerful testimony that He is and ever shall be our Mediator between God and man. God always accepts and readily answers the prayer of all believers. Jesus' loves to answer prayer. Because He rose from the dead and ascended, we too shall rise from the dead and ascend body and soul into heaven. If we are yet living when He returns, "Two men shall be in the field, the one shall be taken and the other left." This event is similar to I Thessalonians 4, "the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

"Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together." This means the world we live in is nothing more than a dead carcass in God's sight, filled with sin, iniquity and every wicked device under the sun. It therefore cannot last and the sins of all men will be judged. Yet for the Christian there is nothing here that would keep us, for our love lives and reigns up there. Therefore dear Christian, remember your true happiness is up there and not in this world. "Remember Lot's wife." And after you remember her, remember Jesus who has redeemed you from this earthly love. Continue in the faith then and persevere. For "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." Amen.