

## ***Lessons From the Sermon of Jesus on the Mountain Part 59***

### ***The Letter of Jesus to the Church in Sardis Part 4***

***“1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. 2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. 3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. 4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. 5 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. 6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” (Revelation 3:1-6 KJV)***

Jesus in verse 3, told the church ***“Remember”, “3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.” (Revelation 3:3 KJV)***

Let us continue to go through the Scriptures and read where God had told His people and to us today to remember, so we can be reminded to do diligently our part of what God wants us to achieve.

***“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35 KJV)*** Here Apostle Paul was speaking to the elders in the church of Ephesus that with hard work they need to support the poor and those who are in trouble, for they are called to give help, support and finances to those who are willing to follow Christ but they are hindered by certain difficulties and limitations and they need our aid. With such manner is more blessed to give to those who are really in need than to receive. I had experienced the joy in giving in supporting certain people who want to follow and obey Christ but they are hindered to do so. Once I give the support needed as if I am receiving. *God would bless us more as we commit ourselves to aid others who are in troubles.*

***“Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.” (Hebrews 13:3 KJV)*** Here Apostle Paul also reminding the Hebrew believers to remember those who are in troubles and to help them; those in prison who are in bond due to persecution. Apostle Paul asked them to help the brethren who are suffering that they need to be helped, to be supported, and to be entertained, ***“1 Let brotherly love continue. 2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” (Hebrews 13:1-2 KJV) \* This is all about giving love and show charity to those who are part of the body of Christ, for they deserve such, and as we give, they will be helped and refreshed, and we too we will be blessed. \* Even to the strangers we need to show charity, as if we are entertaining the Lord Himself and we will be rewarded by the Lord for that. Gad had shown clear***

*concern to the strangers, because the strangers they are new to the places that we meet them, and they know no one, that is why we need to support them.*

***“He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,” (Luke 24:6 KJV)*** Here the women who visited the tomb of Jesus were asked by the angel of the Lord to remember the words of Jesus that He spoke to them in pertain to His resurrection from the dead. Even for us today we need always to remember that our Lord rose from the dead, as well as we are promised to be changed into spiritual body when He will come to take us, ***“51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52 KJV)*** Therefore we need to be ready, so when He will come, we will be ready to meet Him.

And if the Lord will tarry we are promised that our body will be resurrected from the dead, ***“15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For 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: 17 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. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 KJV)*** We are reminded today with the eternal life that we received in Christ Jesus our Lord and for this we are called to live a holy living and be ready and prepare ourselves for His coming. Are you ready to meet the Lord? Are you obeying all His commands? Have you stopped your evil doings? Have you started to serve the Lord? Are you doing His will? Are your living pleasant life to the Lord?

One time there is a sister who went out to take a lunch with a man in a restaurant. I called her and I spoke with her about what she did. She told me we just ate, we did nothing and we did not speak anything bad. I asked her if what she did is alright. She told me yes. Then she asked me, if what she did is bad. I asked her, If Jesus would come and you are sitting with that man, will he going to take you? She told me ‘No’. We need to be ready for the coming of the Lord. Be careful how you live, and be ready for the coming of the Lord.

***“Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:” (2 Timothy 2:8 KJV)*** With this hope of the resurrection we are called to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. There are many people who are lost and we are called to reach them and testify to them about Christ. Every one of us needs to be ready to testify about Jesus Christ and His resurrection from the dead. We need to be ready to deliver the message whenever we are meeting people. We should prepare ourselves for that. The message will contain our story, how we met Christ and what Christ did in our lives, then we include Christ’s story and what He did on the cross to save the whole world, and then to relate the message to the listener’s life and story and what the potential that Christ can do to that particular person that we are reaching out. .

To make yourself ready for the coming of Christ you need to repent from your sins and start to do good and live in the will of God.

**“Remember Lot's wife.” (Luke 17:32 KJV)** Speaking about the salvation of God, about the coming judgment of God, and about the second coming of Christ, Lot's wife is a good warning example for us to know and be aware off. The two angels urged Lot to get out from the city together with anyone else who belongs to his family. Today we are called to urgently go to those whom we know and try to pull them out from the pit of sin and do our best to take them out like parents, brothers, sisters, friends, and the more those who come to know the Lord and went back to sin again or refuse to go through the narrow way and the narrow gate of life. The Lord sent two angels to Sodom to see the condition there and to take Lot out from that place **“12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: 13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.” (Genesis 19:12-13 KJV)** That was an alarming message and there was much sense in urgency in such situation that God is going to send destruction. The two angels said to Lot: **“15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.” (Genesis 19:15 KJV)** We should move out quickly from among the evil doers so we will not hit by the strike of God toward them. **“16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city. 17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.” (Genesis 19:16-17 KJV)** The angels laid hands on them to hurry them out of the city. We need to do the same in urging people to come out of sins, pulling them and snatching people out of fire. That is the real work of the church and that what we need to do and the true love of God. The LORD told them, **“Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain.”** This is the voice of the LORD because Lot called him LORD as we read in the next verse, **“18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my LORD:” (Genesis 19:18 KJV)** and the LORD granted Lot his request to flee to the small town called Zoar because he cannot climb the mountain. When Lot and his family had reached Zoar, the Lord rained burning Sulphur on Sodom and Gomorrah. **“But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.” (Genesis 19:26 KJV)** Let us read the same verse in NIV **“26 But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.” (Genesis 19:26 NIV)** In KJV we can see that she look back behind her husband, she let him go ahead of her but she looked back behind him; she did that because she heard the instruction clearly not to look back, so she did it with her full consent, behind her husband and without his knowledge trying to hide herself from him, undermining and underestimating the Word of God, that is why she was turned to be a pillar of salt.

To Remember Lot's wife, it teaches us the following facts:

**1. Salvation is a personal decision:** Lot, his wife, and the two daughters were running to save their lives from the burning Sulphur. Lot and his two daughters obeyed the command of the angels and were saved, but Lot's wife was lost. She decided to disobey and she became a pillar of salt. She insisted to disobey. The angels were there, her husband and her two daughters were around and the warning was very clear, but she already decided to look back. That is why remember Lot's wife. Lot and his two daughters were not able to do anything for her because salvation is a personal decision. The truth is, it is not enough that our parents are Christians so we can say that we are also Christians. Some they say, ‘Oh, my parents are

*always praying for me.*’ But that is not enough. It is not enough that our spouse or children know God and believe in Jesus so that along with them we are also saved. It is not enough that our friends and those whom we walk with are Christians but we, ourselves should take the decision to believe in Jesus’ death and resurrection, and to follow Him and obey His Word and do His will.

**2. Christians should not stop, should not look back, but to continue the journey to the end:** Lot's wife looked back to the wicked and sinful cities and she became a pillar of salt. She was enticed with the treasures and wealth of Sodom and Gomorrah. She was enticed of what she had left behind from house, furniture, her other daughters and their families, her neighbours and friends in Sodom, etc. She did not focus to obey the command of God, **“look not behind thee.”** She was not careful to keep the commands of God to the end, and so she was not able to enter the town of Zoar to be saved. God does not want us to go back to our old style of life; idolatry, immorality, cheating, corruption, injustice, telling lies, partying, spending much money, immoralities, stealing, grumbling, lack of commitment, other kinds of sins, etc. The church in Sardis they were doing good in the past, but now they are not. That is why they have the reputation being alive but now they are dead. People gauge you according to your past, but God gauge you according to your present situation. The Lord does not want us to go back to our previous bad habits of smoking, drinking, gambling, or wasting time again with friends, watching TV, You tube, instagram, Facebook, on the web, etc. God does not wants us to waiver in our commitment to serve Him. God does not want us to slow down in serving Him. God does not want us to stop or get a break in serving Him. God does not want us to take a space and go away from him. God wants us to look up to Heaven and not to the world of evil desires. Lot's wife almost reached the town of Zoar but did not enter it. Lot's wife suffered the travel to leave Sodom and went out but she did not enter. Lot's wife lost all what she had of material things in her house that was destroyed in Sodom but she did not enter Heaven. Many who lost their salvation inspite that they had done much and journeyed much because they did not determine to obey God fully and to the end, but were enticed with worldly things and other temptations and their emotions had pushed them to do something that caused them sin, disqualified and died without repentance. The Word of God tells us that we should work out our salvation with fear and trembling. **“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” (Philippians 2:12 KJV)** We do not work for our salvation because we freely receive it through faith in Christ Jesus, but we need to keep on going and doing the righteous way of life that we already received from Him; walking with God, following the example of the Lord Jesus and waiting for Him to come and take us to eternity. Salvation is free but it cost us all our life. The Lord Jesus will come again to judge the world: to punish the wicked, to reward those who are patiently waiting for Him and to take us with Him to Heaven. No one knows at which time the Lord will come. So we should not behave like Lot's wife, who for the last moment lost her life, because she did not keep the Lord's commands. Let us therefore keep watching because we don't know which day our Lord will come.

**“Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent”:** Lot's wife received and she heard but she did not hold fast, that is why she was turned into a pillar of salt. She was hard headed and did all what she can to look back in disobedience to God's simple and clear instruction. Let us come now to the Lord in repentance, confessing our sins, renouncing them, and committing ourselves to serve the Lord and to live our lives for Him and to maintain our achievements till He come to take us to Heaven. Let us come to the Lord and ask Him to increase our love for Him and for His Work and for His service and ministry.

**My dear and beloved:** Let us commit now ourselves to the principles that we heard to do from His Word. Let us commit ourselves to remember what He told us in His Word and apply these instructions faithfully in our lives as we go on forward to serve Him.

**My prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your Word that warned me and reminded me of your coming and that I need to be ready.*

*Confess your sins now to God. Renounce your hard headedness and stubbornness, your worldliness, being friend with the world, yoked with non believers, etc. Lord forgives me the following sins \_\_\_\_\_. Lord I commit myself to observe the following commands of yours \_\_\_\_\_. Lord I commit myself to set a good example to others, and to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit in my life so that people will see Jesus in my life.*

*Lord, I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who accepted your Word, and are willing to live their lives and serve you in the way that you wants us to live for you; Lord protect them, preserve them and provide all their needs. Lord use their lives to be good example to others to be attracted to you.*

*Lord bless us and sustain us as a church. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the Holy Spirit that we need to go on and serve you. Lord, we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in Peace with Implementing the Whole Will of God'. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.*

Lessons from the sermon of Jesus on the mountain Part 59. The Letter of Jesus to the church in Sardis Part 4. Revelation 3:1-6. Acts 20:35. Hebrews 13:3, 1-2. Luke 24:6. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18. 2 Timothy 2:8. Luke 17:32. Genesis 19:12-13, 15-17, 26, Philippians 2:12.

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