

Your Profile Page

By Mary J. Ferrill



As I think about what to write for this editorial, COVID-19 continues to turn our world and our lives upside down. Most of us are busier than ever – with added responsibilities – which might limit our time for reflection and time with God. But as we all know, it is during chaotic times like these when we need God the most. Recently, God has been laying on my heart a desire to learn more about Lot’s wife. Seems a little strange, but I’ve learned my lesson from the past when God urged me to study deeper into such biblical characters as Job and Jeremiah. So, after overcoming my typical amount of procrastination, I pulled out my favorite go-to, worn-out, 1991 NIV Life Application Study Bible (LASB). I love this study Bible because it provides valuable insight into the context of the stories, making them come to life as I read each passage. Along with the application notes, there are also book introductions, maps, charts, and diagrams. I find the profile pages particularly helpful. They provide a short summary of biblical characters, complete with explanations about their strengths and accomplishments, weakness and mistakes, lessons to be learned, vital statistics, key verses for the character, and additional passages that mention the individual. I checked the book of Genesis to see if there was a profile page for Lot’s

wife, but there was none – which isn’t surprising, since the Bible does not refer to her by name. She is only mentioned once in the story of Lot found in Genesis 19:26: *“But Lot’s wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.”*

To understand Lot’s wife, we first need to consider Lot. I am certainly not implying that her personal character traits are dependent on her husband – after all, look at Abigail and Nabal. Abigail was a strong and godly woman, but her husband Nabal was a fool (see 1 Samuel 25). In Lot’s profile page, he is described as a drifter, someone who takes the path of least resistance. He was also self-centered, as we see in Genesis 13:5-11. Lot’s Uncle Abram (who later became Abraham) divided the land with him because their flocks and herds were too numerous. Abram gave him the first choice of land, and Lot chose the best lot. When Abram and Lot parted ways, Lot chose to live near the city of Sodom, which the Bible describes in verse 13: *“Now the men of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord.”* His drifter nature and path-of-least-resistance mentality placed Lot in difficult circumstances more than once. In verse 14, war was raging all around him. Instead of leaving on his own, Lot was taken captive and Uncle Abram had to rescue him. Similar circumstances are described in verse 19. The angels had to pull him along when he hesitated to flee from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

So where does Lot’s wife fit in this story? We are given no indication of her background. Was she from the Sodom area? Probably. When Abram and Lot parted ways (in verse 13), only flocks and herds are mentioned – but no family. So it’s likely that Lot married his wife after he was settled in Sodom. If so, then it’s likely she grew up surrounded by wicked and sinful people. However, Lot is actually referred to as “righteous” in the New Testament: *“...and if <God> rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)”* (2 Peter 2:7-8 NIV). So Lot’s wife may have had a different role model in her husband, compared to the pagan role models of her childhood. Was she present when Lot offered their young virgin daughters to the angry sex-crazed mob? Possibly, but we do not know what part she played. All we know for sure is that when they were fleeing the city, the angels gave them simple instructions: Don’t look back and don’t stop anywhere. Lot’s wife’s story ends this way: *“Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the LORD out of the heavens. Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land. But Lot’s wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.”* (Genesis 19:24-26, NIV)

What an incredibly sad ending to what appears to be an incredibly sad life. But God does not mention anyone in the Bible without providing at least one life lesson, and Lot’s wife gives us several. Ruth was an ancestor of Jesus. Ruth was also a descendant of an incestuous relationship between Lot and one of his daughters, which means Ruth was also related to Lot’s wife. God does not always select “perfect” people to bring about His glory. Another life lesson is told to us



in Luke 17:31-33, NIV: *“On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot’s wife! Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it.”* Although Lot’s wife was only mentioned once in the old testament and there were other biblical characters He could have chosen, Jesus used her example to stress the importance of holding on to the things of this life with a very loose grip. In contrast, we should cling to Jesus with a very tight grip. When Lot’s wife looked back, she was clinging to her old life and was turned into a pillar of salt.

The story of both Lot and Lot’s wife can give us hope that God forgives and can bring about positive outcomes from evil. God wants us to do more than just drift through life – he wants us to be a godly influence, functioning as “salt” for Him and witnessing to others about the saving grace that is available only through Jesus Christ. We should also be thankful for what we have, rather than resentful for what we do not have. Our focus should not be on this world, but on Jesus Christ and our heavenly home. In Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV), Jesus says this: *“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

If you were a character mentioned in the Bible, what information would be included on your profile page? Would it be like Lot’s wife, who is only briefly mentioned and not even by name? Or would your description be more akin to that of Lot, who was indeed a flawed human being, but one who loved God and was considered righteous in the eyes of the Lord? Our stories are still being written and it is not too late to shape a new narrative if you are not happy with your current one. Little acts of love that are performed in concert with the Holy Spirit can produce miraculous results. In so doing, each of us can write a compelling human story that is punctuated with divine overtones. May God bless your story and may you craft it for His glory.

2020 CPFI Hands and Feet Grants

CPFI awards numerous Hands and Feet Student Chapter Grants each year. Grant money is funded through a portion of the Silent Auction that occurs at the CPFI Annual Meeting. The purpose of the Hands and Feet Student Chapter Grant is to financially support student chapters so they have funding to serve others in need. The CPFI Board of Directors implemented this Grant to enable student chapters to be the hands and feet of Jesus through Christian service and evangelism. It is the hope of the CPFI Board of Directors that students will give back to their communities while sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Student Chapter Grant recipients receive \$500 to foster the expansion of community service involvement. In support of these efforts, Student chapters may serve in partnerships with communities, nonprofit agencies, schools and governmental bodies. The articles that follow were submitted by the Hands and Feet Student Chapter Grant recipients. Recipients are required to submit a report describing their project. Many of these student chapters also provided a virtual poster presentation at the 2020 CPFI Annual Conference & National Student Retreat.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS SCHOOL OF PHARMACY: Operation Christmas Child Project

The Student Chapter of CPFI at the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy (KU SOP) is proud to report that the Operation Christmas Child Project through Samaritan’s



Purse raised a grand total of \$2100.13 and packed 100 shoeboxes with the help of students, staff, and faculty at the KU SOP and the 2020 CPFI Hands and Feet Grant. The Operation Christmas Child Project is an opportunity for students to pack shoeboxes with toys, clothing, or care products for children around the world who normally do not receive any Christmas gifts. The children also receive the message of the Gospel and prayers from those who packed the shoeboxes.

The 2020 Operation Christmas Child Project goal was to raise \$200 (in addition to the \$500 Hands and Feet Grant) and to fill 60 shoeboxes with the help and donation of shoeboxes from pharmacy students. The Operation Christmas Child Project was approved as an event for the KU SOP Professional Development Program (students are required to complete several events throughout the year). Students who participated in the Operation Christmas Child