

Marriage Series 2009, (#9)

“THINGS HAPPEN!”

Have you heard the expression, “Things Happen?” It is often used to indicate that something unexpected has happened that has caught us off guard.

How the believer responds to this sudden turn of events in his life is important to how well he can gain his composure to deal with it.

Last week we studied five important factors of maintaining / regaining our spiritual composure of NMDV thinking and behavior:

- Initial response
- Reverse concentration
- Doctrinal rationale
- Application of the faith cycle
- And Praise of God’s faithfulness

A sudden cataclysmic event occurred that turned today’s married couple’s world upside down!

“Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven, and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. **But his wife**, from behind him, looked back; and she became a pillar of salt.” (Gen.19:24-26)

When the smoke cleared from this cataclysmic event, this couple’s marriage and family and possessions and finances were dramatically changed in one day, by one event because THINGS HAPPEN!

Today’s lesson will study four aspects of the marriage of Lot and his wife when a sudden cataclysmic event forced them to face the reality of the choice between OMCD and NMDV thinking and behaving.

1. We must be in a spiritual state of readiness as believers to have the proof of our faith tested by fiery ordeals and find reason to rejoice in the Lord It should not catch us off guard.

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for testing, as though some strange thing was happening to you.” (1 Pet.4:12; Phil.1:29)

This couple should have been confident that the LORD always works behind the scene on the believer’s behalf based on the word of God (1 Pet.1:6-8; James 1:2-5).

The story of Job teaches us that NOTHING happens in the believer’s family, life, and marriage apart from divine knowledge and consent (Job 1-2) -“Hast Thou not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and possessions have increased in the land.” (Job 1:10)

Job also teaches us that putting off OMCD and putting on NMDV thinking can be a struggle amidst maximum testing – “I despise my life” (Job 7:3-7, 16).

2. What this couple didn’t know was that behind the scene a spiritual mature believer was engaged in intercessory prayer on their behalf (Gen.18:16-33).

In this story, the Lord was in deep conversation of prayer with Abraham who was privy to this cataclysmic event heading towards Sodom – “I have been so bold to speak to the Lord, though I am but dust and ashes.” (18:27, NIV)

This couple’s safety was based on another believer’s prayer rather than their own. **They had Abraham, but we have Jesus Christ** - “Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” (Heb.7:25)

This spiritual immature couple was oblivious to all the dangers of living in Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen.18:20; 19:4 -13).

3. In the hour of great crisis, when it was essential to be a spiritual leader to his family, NO ONE would listen to Lot!

“And Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, and said, ‘Get out of this place, for the Lord will destroy the city.’ But he appeared to his sons-in-law to be jesting.” (Gen.19:14)

When Lot was told that the only possessions that he could take out of Sodom was his wife and daughters because they must leave immediately, they balked in hesitation.

What they called the good life, God called great and grievous sin (18:20). Apparently, they were heroes of this valley after being rescued from the coalition army invasion of Gen.14.

Lot and his wife and his two daughters had to be seized and dragged out of the jaws of death (Gen.19:15-16).

4. All four of these believers were so incapacitated by OMCD thinking that they couldn’t reverse concentration and apply NMDV doctrinal rationale to this crisis (Eph.4:22-24; Col.3:10; Heb.12:1-2).

They struggled with four urgent commands directed to their crisis – “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, lest you be swept away.” (Gen.19:17)

This is where Luke’s three words are given as a reminder to us – “**Remember Lot’s wife**” (Luke 17:32).

Lot’s wife became her own salt tombstone and died without a funeral. **This reveals how difficult putting off OMCD and putting on NMDV can be in some believer’s lives.**

A change of geographics or jobs or attitudes of despair will not change OMCD thinking. It didn’t for this couple or family. If you read the rest of the story, you learn that you can take the family out of Sodom but it will not automatically take the Sodom out of the family (Gen.19:30-38).

WE DO WHAT WE DO BECAUSE WE THINK WHAT WE THINK (Prov.23:7).

The good news is that God specializes in real SPIRITUAL CHANGE – “And do not be conformed to this world (Lot), **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that which is good and acceptable and perfect (Abraham).” (Rom.12:2; Eph.4:23)

Let me suggest to you that you include www.bluminghearts.com in your studies.

**You can be prepared for whatever or whenever
THINGS HAPPEN!**