

**BOTTOM LINE WITH GOD'S WORD
FOR MEN #38**

Theme: Don't look Back!

Scripture: Genesis 19:26

"But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt."

A Thought:

One of the finest voices in the music industry and for many years the diva of pop music was to appear at one of the toniest music awards shows in the world....she never made it. Less than twenty-fours preceding the walk on the red carpet Whitney Houston was dead. As of this writing the circumstances of her death are still unsure. What we do know that for two decades or so she was like a vessel wallowing in a stormy sea. Her life was the warmth of a comfortable ship basking and indulging in the luxuries it offered while the waves were the demons that gave it no rest. Whitney was no stranger to the Gospel. New Hope Baptist Church was her spiritual home and her soloist presentations became the launching pad to her singing career. She became the darling of the music and entertainment world...with that came fame, money, sycophants and drugs. Not unlike the rest of us mortals....we never learn - Luke 17:33 *Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.*" **Remember the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah? The cities were going to be destroyed and Lot and his clan were told to leave Sodom with a warning not to look back. Lot's wife had other ideas...her physical body moved out but her mind, heart and soul did not...Genesis 19:17. Hence, she suffered the consequences.**

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- **Why do you think Lot's wife defied the warning?**
- **Why was Lot and his family saved? What is Abraham's role?**
- **Write three words that describe the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.**
- **What are your temptations? Do you look back at what you left? If so. Why?**

Scriptures to read:

- **2 Peters 2:6-10; Luke 17:20-32; Genesis 19:1-29; Psalm 139, 140; 1Cor. 6:9-20; 2 Cor. 7:1, 10; 1Peter 5:7-9; Titus 2:11-15; Gal.5:22-26; 2 Tim. 1:6-7;**
- **Exodus 20:3-4; Romans 1:24-25, 31-32, 8:38-39**

Quote: Nikki Sixx, Motley Crue (Recovering addict)

"We have a long list of artists who fall prey to enablers. I was hoping people would be saying 'we tried....we stood beside her.'" and instead I'm hearing people just stood by and let her be an addict."

Whitney Houston: *"When I decided to be a singer, my mother warned me I'd be alone a lot. Basically we all are. Loneliness comes with life."* (BrainyQuote.com)

Bottom Line:

Whitney's last performance is somewhat eery if not ironic. At a pre-grammy shindig her gospel roots became evident when she shared the stage with a friend and sang one of the most popular renditions and one of her personal favorite songs, "Jesus Loves Me." One tabloid reported that Whitney had been telling friends she "felt like her time was coming"....and wanted to make sure she spent her time praising her Lord and savior whenever she could. Truth be told...we all have experienced this spiritual awakening in our lives. When times are rough...we look up and see His majesty...tears well up in our eyes, we whisper prayers, we ask for forgiveness and finally, finally we ask for help. A note for all of us...Jesus loves you. Yes Whitney... Jesus loves you for the Bible tells me so...."Jesus loves me! He will stay, close beside me all the way; He's prepared a home for me, And someday His face I'll see. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so." RIP

NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler,

Your bro, Ray

