

5-Day Devotional: Don't Look Back - Moving Forward with God

Day 1: Choosing Your Master

Reading: Joshua 24:14-15; Matthew 6:24

Devotional: Today's challenge is simple yet profound: Who are you serving? Like Lot, we often try to maintain one foot in God's kingdom and another in worldly success. But Jesus makes it clear—we cannot serve two masters. Lot chose the fertile plains of Sodom because they looked prosperous, but that choice nearly destroyed his family. What "fertile plains" are tempting you away from wholehearted devotion to God? Your career? Your reputation? Financial security? God isn't asking you to abandon responsibility, but He is asking for your complete allegiance. When you seek first His kingdom, everything else finds its proper place.

Reflection: What area of your life are you trying to serve two masters? What would wholehearted devotion to God look like in that area today?

Day 2: The Power of Influence

Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:13; Romans 1:24-32

Devotional: Lot started by pitching his tent outside Sodom, but eventually moved inside and became a leader in that wicked city. Sin takes you further than you want to go, keeps you longer than you want to stay, and costs you more than you want to pay. The tragedy is that Lot's witness became so watered down by his tolerance of sin that when he finally tried to warn his family, they thought he was joking. Are you being influenced by your environment, or are you influencing it? Your witness matters. People are watching how you live, not just what you say. God always provides a way of escape from temptation, but you must be willing to take it—even when it's uncomfortable.

Reflection: In what environments are you compromising your witness? Who in your life knows without a doubt that you're a Christian?

Day 3: The Cost of Hesitation

Reading: Luke 9:23-25; Philippians 3:13

Devotional: When the angels told Lot to flee, he hesitated. He had built a comfortable life in Sodom—wealth, position, history, and plans for the future. Walking away meant losing everything he'd worked for. How often do we hesitate when God calls us to leave something behind? We know that conversation is toxic, but we stay. We know that relationship is pulling us away from God, but we linger. We know God is calling us to a new direction, but the mountains look too hard to climb. Here's the truth: if God tells you to do something, He'll give you what you need to accomplish it. Your hesitation today could cost you God's best tomorrow. Don't let comfort keep you from obedience.

Reflection: What is God asking you to leave behind that you're hesitating to release? What comfort zone is keeping you from God's best?

Day 4: Setting the Temperature

Reading: Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Devotional: Lot allowed his environment to shape him rather than shaping his environment. He became so familiar with Sodom's ways that he called the wicked men "brothers" and failed to protect what mattered most. As believers, we're called to be salt and light—to set the temperature, not adapt to it. This doesn't mean being harsh or judgmental, but it does mean living distinctly different lives. Your workplace, your neighborhood, your family should be different because you're there. Are people around you becoming more like Christ because of your influence, or are you becoming more like the world? You may be the only Jesus some people ever see. Live Him out loud. Speak truth in love. Don't blend in so completely that your light becomes invisible.

Reflection: Where are you blending in when you should be standing out? How can you "set the temperature" in your sphere of influence this week?

Day 5: The Choices That Define Tomorrow

Reading: Genesis 19:15-26; Colossians 3:1-2

Devotional: The choices you make today determine where you'll be tomorrow. Where you are today is the direct result of choices you made yesterday. Lot's wife looked back and became a pillar of salt—a monument to divided loyalty and misplaced affection. What are you looking back at that's keeping you from moving forward? Past successes? Former comfort? Lost opportunities? God is already in your tomorrow, preparing the way. He's also preparing you today for that tomorrow. But you must choose to forget what lies behind and press toward what lies ahead. Sodom would have eventually destroyed Lot if God hadn't destroyed Sodom first. What "Sodoms" in your life need to be destroyed before they destroy you? Don't hesitate. Pick up your cross. Follow Jesus. Don't look back.

Reflection: What past situation, relationship, or season are you still looking back at? What specific step of obedience is God asking you to take today to move forward?

Final Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to serve You wholeheartedly without divided loyalty. Give me courage to influence my environment rather than being shaped by it. Remove my hesitation and help me obey quickly when You speak. Set my eyes on things above and give me strength to lay down whatever You're asking me to release. I choose today to pick up my cross and follow You. In Jesus' name, Amen.