

# ***Don't Look Back***

*January 8, 2017*

## **I. Introduction**

*A. Crossroad Moments give us the opportunity to sabotage our future or set ourselves up for God's favor.*

**Genesis 19:15-17** With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished." When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the Lord was merciful to them. As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!"

**Genesis 19:18-22** But Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please! Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I'll die. Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it—it is very small, isn't it? Then my life will be spared." He said to him, "Very well, I will grant this request too; I will not overthrow the town you speak of. But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach it." (That is why the town was called Zoar.)

**Genesis 19:23-26** By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. 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.

**Luke 17:28-29** "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.

**Luke 17:32** Remember Lot's wife!

*B. Don't Look Back!*

**1 Corinthians 10:6** Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.

1. When we look back, we set our hearts on what is behind instead of moving towards what is ahead.

2. Our actions will eventually follow our hearts.

**Luke 12:34** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Luke 6:45** A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

3. Looking back can be a dangerous thing.

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## II. Three Lessons From Lot's Wife

### 1. *When Times Are Hard, Don't Look Back.*

- A. It is easier to look back than to move forward.
- B. It is easy to look back when you feel stuck.
- C. If you are in God's Will or in God's Word, don't look back.

**Luke 9:62** Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

- You will never move straight ahead if you are always looking back.
- You won't have to start over tomorrow if you do not stop today.

### 2. *When God Brings Deliverance, Don't Look Back.*

- A. That thing you think you want may be the thing that does you in.
  - When we look back, we may miss the moment of God's deliverance.
  - When we look back, those closest to us lose out.
- B. What is revealed in the trend lines will eventually write the headlines.
  - How will your headline read?

- The saved can look back so far that they find themselves counted among the lost.

**Galatians 5:7** You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth?

### *3. When God Gives Opportunity, Don't Look Back.*

- You miss out on the future when you linger looking at the past.

**Philippians 3:12-14** Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.