Don't Look Back

Greg Kline · Genesis 18:20–19:26

INTRODUCTION

- One of the biggest struggles of becoming a Christian is recognizing that in the past you've lived a life of rebellion.
- All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, it wasn't a doom and gloom statement. It was a fact to point out to them, you need Jesus.
- Can I move on to the work, knowing that the lifetime that I know the Bible says I am forgiven of, can I be sure that won't catch up with me?

1 God Cannot Stand Wickedness

Genesis 18:20–33; Genesis 19:1–13; Genesis 19:24–25

- Do I, like Abraham, have a desire to intercede for people who are going to be found displeasing to God?
- It wasn't a few bad people surrounding the house. It was those surrounding the house to the last man.
- No reading of Genesis chapter 18 or 19 can conclude any logical explanation for God other than that he cannot stand wickedness.
- God has no room and no time for sin.

2 But He Lingered, and She Looked Back

Genesis 19:16; Genesis 19:26

- The man of faith, Lot, verse 16, but he lingered.
- Lot's hesitation could have led to his family's demise.
- Lot's wife in verse 26, after being told, do not look back, only press forward. She looked back.
- When he says go, we go. When he says don't look back, we do not look back.

3 By Faith Abraham Went Out

Hebrews 11:8–10

- By faith, Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.
- God says, I want you to go. Abraham had no clue where it was, but he went.
- That is the pivotal problem. When God says go, we too often hesitate.

4 Forgetting What Lies Behind

Philippians 3:7–14

- I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
- The time to act is now. When God says go, we better get up and go.
- It doesn't matter where you've been or what you've done.

- One thing I do, forgetting what lies behind, and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

5 When You're Looking Back, You Don't Move Forward

Luke 9:57–62

- When God says you are to go forward, you are to strain ahead, you cannot look back.
- No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.
- There's only one way to go in terms of pleasing God and working towards the prize found only in Jesus Christ. It's forward.
- When I look back to that, if it inhibits me in any way, it means my faith isn't strong in the forgiveness of God.

6 Know That God Has Forgiven You

Psalm 103:8–14

- Stop looking back. Know that God has forgiven you. Trust that He will deliver you.
- As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
- It doesn't matter how great you were or how awful you were.
- Our God can and will forgive you if you trust in him.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **But the third step is the one we're all in. What will we do?**

MY NOTES