

REMEMBER. DON'T LOOK BACK.

"Remember Lot's wife..."

LUKE 17:32

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Luke 17:26, And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: 27 They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. 28 Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;

Luke 17:29, but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. 31 "In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his [i]goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. 32 **Remember Lot's wife.** 33 Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

2 Corinthians 5:17, (NLT)

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Beware of the lure of lesser things.

Luke 9:59, Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." 61 And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." 62 But Jesus said to him, "**No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**"

“Fit” Defined:

Greek “Euthetos” – ready for use; well adapted; from two words, *eu*, “well” and *tithemi*, “to place:” Meaning “well placed”

1. Is your hand on the plow (or steering wheel?)
2. Are majoring on majors, or majoring on minors?
3. Why are you looking back?
4. Do you regret your place in life?
5. Are you fit for the Kingdom of God?

What lesson can we learn from Lot's wife?

Luke 17:32, Remember Lot's wife. 33 Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

1. The more you try to order your own steps and do things in your own strength, the more you fail.
2. Sometimes we **linger** when should **act on the opportunity** God affords us in mercy.

Genesis 19:16,

And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, **the LORD being merciful to him**, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.

Your success often depends upon paying attention and not looking back!

Genesis 19:17, So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! **Do not look behind you** nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."

Your success often depends upon paying attention and not looking back!

Genesis 19:17, But his wife looked back [went back] behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

What and who is a “pillar of salt?”

- 1. Someone whose hesitance and indecision has become a lifestyle**
- 2. Someone who has become separated from the mainstream**
- 3. Someone whose constant excuses have excused him from the blessing of God**

How to Avoid Looking Back

1. Don't let people lock you into your past. When they ask you about your past, tell them what God has promised in the present and future.
2. Forget painful experiences. Meaning: Move the memory out of our conscious mind. Like items we store away in the attic or garage.

Philippians 3:13,

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but **one thing I do**, forgetting those things which are behind and **reaching forward to those things which are ahead**, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Remember and Don't Look Back

1. Make the commitment, "This One Thing I Do."
2. Forget the things that are behind. Don't look back.
3. Reach forward to the things that are ahead.
- 4. Do it today!**