

No Turning Back

Scripture Text: Genesis 19:17-26

As we conclude our series of lessons examining each verse of the invitation song "I Have Decided To Follow Jesus," we have looked at each verse in detail. In this lesson we will examine the chorus of the song and apply it to our lives.

"No turning back, no turning back."

1. What does it mean?

A. Gen. 19:17-29- Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, even though she was told not to.

B. Why did she do this? She was losing her old lifestyle and life itself.

C. We remember the past, we remember the "good" things and want to go back and relive them. Sometimes we look too much into the past and this causes us to stumble.

D. Lot did not tell his wife to look back, she did that on her own; sometimes we want to go back to things but we cannot.

E. Esther 4:12ff- Esther never turned back and she eventually saved all of the Jews, God's chosen people.

F. Jesus kept on going when the people were spitting on Him as He carried His cross. He did not let that stop Him.

G. When we turn back, we cause others pain. Some people turn away when they don't feel love. It is our job to love all of the Brethren. **Mister Rogers quote on love.**

2. A lot of amount the salt makes?

A. Why don't we know the name of Lot's Wife? The devil doesn't care about your name, he just wants to add you to his "shelf" or collection.

B. Rev. 20:15- if our name is not found in the Book of Life, we are going to burn in Hell. That is pretty harsh, but it is the truth and plain and simple. Lot's wife does not have her name mentioned, but we want ours to be mentioned in the Lamb's Book of Life.

C. In life, we need to always look forward, never backwards.

- In your car, you have a rear view mirror. You are required by the TN State Laws to look into that mirror to see the other cars around you.

- In our spiritual lives, we don't need to be looking back at where we have been, or what we are passing by on either side. Look straight ahead to your goal and you should not get lost.

3. **We have a lot of distance to travel**

A. In Gen. 19, they have a lot of distance to travel.

B. When we are running, we need to run with a purpose. For example:

- How a dog chases its tail.

- Running in a 5K to raise awareness for Breast Cancer.

C. I Cor. 9:24-27- All runners run, but only one wins a prize. We have to run for a while – can't give up.

- Did Usain Bolt give up when he was one whole body length ahead of the competition in the Olympics?

- Did Dale Earnhardt ever park his car when he was two laps ahead of the second place car?

- Did Arnold Palmer ever stop playing his round when he was more under par than his competitors?

- Did Paul ever give up when they people didn't want to hear the message?

- Did Jesus ever give up when teaching His message?

- Did whoever brought you to church ever give up on bringing you?

D. We need to be a Christian Energizer Bunny; just keep going, and going, and going, and going. When we stop, we lose momentum. (An object in motion tends to stay in motion, an object at rest tends to stay at rest.)

E. We have something to run to (God) and run from (Satan). I Pet. 5:8

We always need to be running to God. Always running towards Him.

God wants to be right in front of us when we finish the race, telling us what we could go what we did, and the He knew that you could do it all along.

God is like our coach, always working towards Him and He is always encouraging us along the way. There is no successful athlete in the world that is at the place they are now without any help from a coach whatsoever. It just doesn't happen. We all need help, and God is always more than willing to give it to us!

The choice is ours: go good or bad?

Have you decided to follow Jesus?

Are you going to Follow Him even if no one else is?

Are you going to carry your cross until you see Jesus?

Are you not going to turn back, no matter what?

I love how the last verse of the song ends just a little bit differently than the first two. Instead of ending with “no turning back,” the last verse ends with “I’ll Follow Him.” This should be our motto and motivation each and every day of our lives. Is it yours?

Are you running to God or away from God?

If we can help in any way, please come as we stand and sing.

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