

## Don't Look Back

### 1. Lot's wife

Genesis 19:14-29

<sup>14</sup> So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters. He said, "Hurry and get out of this place, because the Lord is about to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking. <sup>15</sup> 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." <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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!" <sup>18</sup> But Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please! <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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." <sup>21</sup> He said to him, "Very well, I will grant this request too; I will not overthrow the town you speak of. <sup>22</sup> But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach it." (That is why the town was called Zoar.) <sup>23</sup> By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. <sup>24</sup> Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the Lord out of the heavens. <sup>25</sup> Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, destroying all those living in the cities—and also the vegetation in the land. <sup>26</sup> But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. <sup>27</sup> Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the Lord. <sup>28</sup> He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace. <sup>29</sup> So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.

Luke 17:26-34

<sup>26</sup> "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. <sup>27</sup> People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. <sup>28</sup> "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. <sup>29</sup> But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. <sup>30</sup> "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. <sup>31</sup> On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. <sup>32</sup> Remember Lot's wife! <sup>33</sup> Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it. <sup>34</sup> I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>35</sup> Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left."

### 2. Paul

Philippians 3:7-14

<sup>4</sup> ...If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. <sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

### 3. Israel

Numbers 11:4-6

<sup>4</sup>The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup>We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. <sup>6</sup>But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!"

Numbers 14:1-4

<sup>1</sup> That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. <sup>2</sup>All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! <sup>3</sup>Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" <sup>4</sup>And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

Numbers 16:8-15

<sup>8</sup>Moses also said to Korah, "Now listen, you Levites! <sup>9</sup>Isn't it enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the rest of the Israelite community and brought you near himself to do the work at the Lord's tabernacle and to stand before the community and minister to them? <sup>10</sup>He has brought you and all your fellow Levites near himself, but now you are trying to get the priesthood too. <sup>11</sup>It is against the Lord that you and all your followers have banded together. Who is Aaron that you should grumble against him?" <sup>12</sup>Then Moses summoned Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab. But they said, "We will not come! <sup>13</sup>Isn't it enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the wilderness? And now you also want to lord it over us! <sup>14</sup>Moreover, you haven't brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey or given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Do you want to treat these men like slaves? No, we will not come!" <sup>15</sup>Then Moses became very angry and said to the Lord, "Do not accept their offering. I have not taken so much as a donkey from them, nor have I wronged any of them."

### 4. Hebrews 11

Hebrews 11:13-16

<sup>13</sup>All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. <sup>14</sup>People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Joshua 5:10-12

<sup>10</sup>On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. <sup>11</sup>The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. <sup>12</sup>The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.

### 5. Jesus

Luke 9:57-62

<sup>57</sup>As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>58</sup>Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." <sup>59</sup>He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup>Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." <sup>61</sup>Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." <sup>62</sup>Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

## 6. You get what you long for

Psalm 37:4

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Romans 1:21-24

<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. <sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts...

Numbers 14:26-29

<sup>26</sup>The Lord said to Moses and Aaron: <sup>27</sup>“How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. <sup>28</sup>So tell them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very thing I heard you say: <sup>29</sup>In this wilderness your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me.

## 7. Abram, Terah Haran

Genesis 11:27-32

<sup>27</sup>This is the account of Terah. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. And Haran became the father of Lot. <sup>28</sup>While his father Terah was still alive, Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, in the land of his birth. <sup>29</sup>Abram and Nahor both married. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah; she was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milcah and Iscah. <sup>30</sup>Now Sarai was barren; she had no children. <sup>31</sup>Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Haran, they settled there. <sup>32</sup>Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Haran.

Genesis 12:1-5

<sup>1</sup>The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup>“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” <sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. <sup>5</sup>He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

## 8. Healing, forgiveness, deliverance, perseverance

## 9. Revival is messy

## 10. “More Lord”