

## **No turning back**

We often sing the song, "I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back, no turning back." Luke records the words of Jesus, "No one, after putting his hand of the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62)

Jesus seems to be alluding (to some extent) to Lot's wife who looked back at the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and was turned in to a pillar of salt. There are many who believe that Lot's wife was punished because she longed for the way of life in Sodom. This use would fit the context here. Jesus was talking about what it takes to follow Him.

Just a few verses before, Luke tells us that Jesus was determined to go to Jerusalem. He was determined to put things in motion for His ascension. It is hard to focus on something if our desire is on many things. How can we desire the Kingdom of God when we desire the kingdom of this world just as much? You cannot serve two masters (Mat 6:24).

Jesus also seems to be referencing basic farming practices. I can only expect to do shoddy work if I am not focusing on the task at hand. If the farmer is looking back to where he just was, he will not plow in a straight line. He might also lose control of his equipment or animal that is pulling the plow. There is lots to be distracted by: birds, pride of what we have accomplished, other people who try to distract, etc.

We need to be, just like Jesus was, determined to do the work of God. Not looking back is being determined; not letting longings and distractions deter us from following the Savior. We could as well be singing, "*I am determined* to follow Jesus. No turning back. No turning back."

Over the next couple weeks, we will look at some examples Luke gives regarding ways the world tries to pull us away from following Jesus.

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