DON'T TURN BACK

Taking Resurrection Life to the Streets

Genesis 19:17 As soon as the angels got them outside, one of them said, "Run for your lives! Don't look back and don't stop anywhere on the plain! Run to the mountains, or you will be swept away! "

Obedience is the key to salvation

There are moments in life when God brings you out—but not everything that is in you comes out at the same time. You can be:

- Out of Egypt… but Egypt still in your heart
- Out of sin… but still thinking like your past
- On your way forward… but emotionally tied to what God delivered you from

Deliverance requires direction—and direction requires obedience.

Genesis 19:17 is a verse from the Old Testament of the Bible, located in the Book of Genesis. It records a critical moment during the destruction of Sodom, when angels urge Lot and his family to flee the doomed city and not look back. The verse is often cited for its themes of obedience, divine judgment, and salvation.

What happened?

As God was destroying the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot and his family were told to flee and not look back. However, Lot's wife disobeyed that instruction. **In Genesis 19:26, it says that she looked back and became a pillar of salt.**

The three key instructions :

1. **Escape for your life → Move immediately, don't delay.** Matthew 2:13-14 NLT - After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." [14] That night, Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother.

Joseph didn't wait until morning; he didn't ask questions; he moved immediately by night. Because the delay could have cost Jesus' life **Some instructions are not for discussion - they are for action.** David fleeing from Saul in 1 Samuel 19:11-12 - Saul sent men to kill him. And Michal **warned him: "If you do not escape tonight, tomorrow you will be killed" (1 Samuel 19:11-12).**

2. **Do not look back → No attachment to what God is delivering you from.** Numbers 11:4-6 NLT - Then the foreign rabble who were travelling with the Israelites began to crave the good things of Egypt. And the people of Israel also began to complain. "Oh, for some meat!" they exclaimed. [5] "We remember the fish we used to eat for free in Egypt. And we had all the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic we wanted. [6] But now our appetites are gone. All we ever see is this manna!" God delivered them from slavery, but their hearts were still in Egypt. **You can leave bondage physically, but still be attached emotionally.** Jesus warns us about looking back. Luke 9:62 "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." **Looking back disqualifies focus for what is ahead.**

3. **Do not stay in the plain → Don't remain in a dangerous environment.** Genesis 39:12 NLT - She came and grabbed him by his cloak, demanding, "Come on, sleep with me!" Joseph tore himself away, but he left his cloak in her hand as he ran from the house. Joseph didn't argue… He didn't manage the situation… He ran. **Some environments are not to be managed - they are to be exited.**

Being in the wrong environment can confuse your identity and your assignment. When you remain in a place God is not calling you to stay, it begins to distort your direction, your clarity, and even your purpose. Abraham understood this. There came a point where separation was not optional—it was necessary for destiny. In Genesis 13:8-9, Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me… The whole land is before you. Please separate from me." This was not rejection—it was alignment. This was not conflict—it was preservation.

Abraham realized that staying together in the same environment would limit growth, create confusion, and hinder what God had promised. **Not every connection is meant for every season.**

Obedience is the key to salvation

Do not hesitate when God is calling you to move. Do not turn your heart back to what He has already delivered you from. And do not remain in places, relationships, or seasons He is leading you out of.

Your future is too valuable to be anchored in what no longer aligns with your purpose. God is calling you forward, lifting you higher, and aligning your life with His divine will.

As a final reminder, hold firmly to the warning in Luke 17:32:
"Remember what happened to Lot's wife!"

Prayer Outline – Final Declaration (3 Points)

1. **Prayer Against Turning Back: I will not turn back.** Luke 9:62 - "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

2. **Prayer to Leave Wrong Environments: I will not stay where God is calling me out of.** Revelation 18:4 - "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins…"

3. **Prayer for Forward Movement in Purpose: I move forward in obedience, alignment, and purpose.** Philippians 3:13-14 - "Forgetting those things which are behind… I press toward the goal…"