



# Burn the Ships

## Don't Look Back

### WEEK ONE

**Commitments are a series of decision points that we make which define us.**

- **We don't like to make commitments that we feel are restricting.**
- **We don't keep commitments that are not fulfilling.**
- **Commitments can become compromised when we longingly look back.**

**Commitments are decision points that make or break us.**

<sup>10</sup>...Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. <sup>11</sup> Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?" <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?'" <sup>14</sup> Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son." <sup>15</sup> Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

Genesis 18:10-15 (NIV)

**God is faithful to His commitments even when our situations make God's promises seem unbelievable.**

<sup>18</sup> Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. <sup>19</sup> For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him." <sup>20</sup> Then the Lord said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous <sup>21</sup> that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know."

Genesis 18:18-21 (NIV)

**God is committed to His plan to have a people who will love Him, be devoted to Him, and be committed to do what is right and just.**

<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!"

Genesis 19:16-17 (NIV)

**It is an act of mercy to warn someone that sin must be punished.**

<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.

Genesis 19:25-26 (NIV)

**When looking for freedom and fulfillment, our sinful nature drives us to pursue vices that are false imitations of eternal pleasure.**

**God promises freedom from the destruction of sin and life in Him to those who trust in His salvation and obey Him.**

<sup>24</sup> "For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. <sup>25</sup> But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. <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.

Luke 17:24-33 (NIV)

**Remember what happens when someone longingly looks back to that from which they have been set free.**



**Jesus promises life to those who trust in Him as Savior and follow Him as Lord.**

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

John 10:10 (NIV)

<sup>31</sup> To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:31-32 (NIV)

**Jesus was fully committed to us, so we can be fully committed to Him.**

SERIES BIG IDEA:

**We experience true freedom and fulfillment when we completely trust in Jesus as our Savior and wholeheartedly commit to following Jesus as Lord.**

**Don't longingly look back to the things from which God has set me free.**



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**TEACHING SUMMARY:**

The draw to what was is something that is hard for many of us to overcome. We often look back and remember the past through rose colored glasses.

When in all honesty if we stopped and thought for a moment we would remember that the "good" times of the past weren't so great at all.

The rose colored glasses are a tool of the enemy to keep us from focusing on what Jesus came to provide.

Jesus came to provide life and life abundant and if we would engage in life with Him then we would experience a life that is beyond all imagination.

Jesus is the Lord and we can choose to submit to Him. If we do then we receive Him as Savior, which is who He desires to be for all, and will experience life like only He can provide.

**TALK IT OVER:**

What is it in your life that you return to over and over again that you wish would provide fulfillment but ends up leaving you empty?

Do you believe that Jesus has something greater for you and are you willing to submit to Him and turn away from the things that have held you captive before?

What is one next step you can take today?

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS:**

Day 1: Genesis 6:17-19; Genesis 7:17-24

Day 2: Genesis 8:1-22

Day 3: Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2

Day 4: Psalm 40:6-8; Hebrews 10:5-10

Day 5: John 14:20-24

Day 6: Colossians 3:1-16