

## **Plowing. Don't look back.**

### **Luke 9:51-53,**

*“51 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,*

*52 and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him.*

*53 But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.”*

### **Luke 9:57-61,**

*“57 Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.”*

*58 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”*

*59 Then He said to another, “Follow Me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”*

*60 Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.”*

*61 And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.””*

### **Luke 9:62,**

*“62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the **plow**, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.””*

Jesus spoke this about not looking back as He had set His face to go to Jerusalem to be crucified. I believe He was our example of setting our face upon His goals. He spoke to those who wanted to follow Him. One of them wanted to go back home until his father died so he could bury him. The other simply wanted to go home to say farewell to his family. Why did Jesus say this to these particular people?

### **I learned something very interesting about plowing.**

Remember I was raised a “city boy” and did not ever see a person plowing a field. I saw Angus Bachus on TV explaining this idea of not looking back while plowing. Angus was the farmer and evangelist in South Africa that was featured in the movie, “Faith Like Potatoes.”

He explained that when a person plows a field, he must first pick a stationary object like a tree or structure, and keep his eyes on it. The plow must make a straight line.

If a person looks back while he is plowing, the plow weaves out of the straight course and makes a curve in the plowing line. Then when the plowman turns back and reaches the curve, he must curve again in order to align with the plowed up ground. After several trips back forth with the plow, the curve distorts the field and it is not suitable for planting. Angus said that the plowed field would be in the shape of a snake.

**Right after Jesus made the statement about not looking back He sent out 70 people to go into every city with the Gospel.**

He needed those who would take up their cross for His ministry. He was looking for those who were totally committed so that the Gospel would go forth in truth and power. Actually if we do look back, our conversational relationship with Jesus is hampered, and even if we do preach the Gospel it will not be anointed.

**Luke 10:1-2**

*“1 After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.*

*2 Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.*

**What are we in danger of looking back at?**

As you read these remember that we are new creations in Christ, all things have become new, we have been born again, our old carnal nature died with Christ. Looking back is contrary to these facts. Meditate upon these truths daily.

**1. Regrets- failures.**

Regrets have a way of controlling our thinking. Failures can cause us to feel condemnation. Our failures have been washed clean by His blood. You have been crucified with Christ, now it is He that lives in you.

**2. Don't look back at your glory.**

Some look back at with pride at what you have done for in ministry. Pride prevents humility what is so important for our lives. Every act of ministry is only effective if Jesus does it through you. That is always for His glory.

**3. Unforgiveness**

Unforgiveness will cause us to look back without even trying. It just controls us.

If we have unforgiveness, even unforgiveness that we are not aware of, we will be always looking back. Our defective conscience will not allow open fellowship with God. We are always replaying what others did to us, and perhaps what we have done and not asked forgiveness for. All of your sins have been absorbed by Him at the Cross, and you are free.

**4. Looking back at the things of this world.**

**Genesis 19:26,**

*But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.*

**Luke 17:31-33,**

*“In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.*

**Jesus spoke about looking back at the things of this world.**

**Luke 14:12-27,**

*“12 Then He also said to him who invited Him, “When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid.*

*13 “But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind.*

*14 “And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”*

*15 Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, “Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!”*

*16 Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many,*

*17 “and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’”*

*18 “But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’*

*19 “And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’*

*20 “Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’*

*21 “So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’*

*22 “And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’*

*23 “Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*

*24 ‘For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’”*

*25 Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them,*

*26 “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.*

*27 “And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”*

**There are some exceptions. There are some things that the Lord does want us to look back upon.**

**However it takes place while harvesting not while plowing.**

Copied from the God Calling devotion – November 8.

*“Wipe The Slate*

*But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark ... Philippians 3:13,14.*

*Forget the past. Remember only its glad days. Wipe the slate of your remembrance with Love, which will erase all that is not confirmed in Love. You must forget your failures, your failures and those of others. Wipe them out of the book of your remembrance.”*

**Look back while harvesting not while plowing and sowing.**

**Psalms 126:5-6,**

*5 Those who sow in tears*

*Shall reap in joy.*

*6 He who continually goes forth weeping,*

*Bearing seed for sowing,*

*Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing,*

*Bringing his sheaves with him.*

**We need to look back at how God has converted our trials and sufferings into a harvest, and be reminded that He will continue to do that for us now. For a reminder on how this works take a look at this free PDF download titled The Heavenly Courtroom.**

<http://www.isob-bible.org/aaa/English/Heavenly%20Courtroom/Heavenly%20Courtroomprohibit.pdf>

**The Lord's Prayer is a great way to keep your eyes forward. Speak it out loud and meditate upon it.**

**Matthew 6:9-13,**

*“9 “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.*

*10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.*

*11 Give us this day our daily bread.*

*12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.*

*13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”*

**What if you have looked back? What if you are even looking back right now?**

**Jesus offers us Amazing Grace!**

**Matthew 11:28-29**

*“28 “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*

*“29 “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”*

Take on the plowing yoke with Jesus. He invites us to yoke up with Him when we are weary or have failed. In this scene we are not doing the plowing, but we have the invitation to yoke up with Jesus as the oxen were yoked up. This is where Jesus wants us to end up. Yoked with Him, dependent upon Him.

Plowing was normally done by yoking two oxen together with the man guiding and steering the plow from the back. Here we find rest and still carry out God's plan.

**Plowing the biblical way brings exponential growth. This can only be done by being yoked up with Jesus.**

**Amos 9:11-15,**

“11 “On that day I will raise up The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, And repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old;

12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom, And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,” Says the LORD who does this thing.

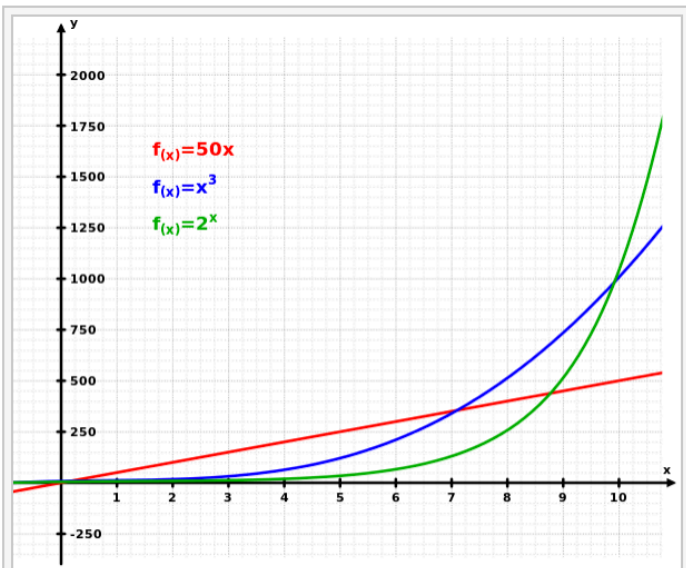
13 “Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “**When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it.**

**Think about how a plowman can catch up with the reaper and the treader of the grapes can overtake the one who sows seed.**

14 I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them.

15 I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them,” Says the LORD your God.”

The Tabernacle of David finally converted into the Kingdom of God; therefore these verses in Amos apply to us. See Acts 15:15-16



The graph illustrates how exponential growth (green) surpasses both linear (red) and cubic (blue) growth.

- Exponential growth
- Linear growth
- Cubic growth