

Burn the Ships

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6:30am, July 24th, 2020

My wife and I went with friends to see For King and Country in Wabash at the 1324 Drive In. Before the “Burn the Ships” song, Luke shared the story of his wife’s addiction to prescription medication as well as the story of Hernán Cortés burning his ships after arriving in the New World in 1519 sending a clear message to his men, there is no turning back. Brenda and I immediately thought of sitting at Meridian Title Company 5 days earlier signing our house over to our neighbors. A few days later, I stopped at the house and saw Adam had already begun transforming it, new painted garage floor, painted bedrooms, new lighting in the front. There is no going back and it’s a good thing. Brenda and I look each other in the eye now and remind one another that God is taking us somewhere and obedience to His call has no alternative by smiling and saying “burn the ships”.

1. Tell of a time in your life where God called you to obey something that required you to leave something behind in such a way that there was no going back.
2. Why do we look back? Is it a commitment problem? An obedience without understanding problem? A trust problem? Something else?
3. Read Philippians 3:7-8, 12-14. What do you observe in Paul’s statements about what he has gained in this world in comparison to Jesus?
4. What keeps us from forgetting what lies behind and straining towards what lies ahead?
5. Read Luke 9:57-62 2:6-8. What do you see in the responses Jesus had for each person’s statements about following Jesus?
6. What does service require that Jesus can say someone is unfit if they look back to what they are leaving? Does Jesus mean that we have to leave everything to serve Him?

⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ...¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” – **Philippians 3:7-8, 12-14**

⁵⁷As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, ‘I will follow you wherever you go.’ ⁵⁸Jesus replied, ‘Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.’ ⁵⁹He said to another man, “Follow me.” But he replied, ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’ ⁶⁰Jesus said to him, ‘Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.’ ⁶¹Still another said, ‘I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.’ ⁶²Jesus replied, ‘No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.’” – **Luke 9:57-62**

“But they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and the stubbornness of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward.” – **Jeremiah 7:24**