

# How Far Will You Go?

**Date: 12/31/2025**

## Introduction: Foundational Reality for Most People

- Most people give only 2–3% of their money and 1–2% of their time to serve people outside of themselves.

## Three Main Text:

### 1. Luke 9:62 (NIV)

- Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

### 2. Hebrews 10:38–39 (NIV)

- “And, ‘But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back. ’But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.”

### 3. Genesis 19:26 (NIV)

- “But Lot’s wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.”

## I. HOW FAR WILL YOU GO WITH YOUR FOCUS?(Luke 9:62)

- Starting is common
- Sustaining focus is rare

  

- Bottom Line :  
Divided focus limits distance.  
You don't go far while looking back.

## II. HOW FAR WILL YOU GO WITH YOUR FAITH? (Hebrews 10)

- Shrinking back is subtle
- It looks like caution, not rebellion
- Progress isn't stolen — it's forfeited.

### III. HOW FAR WILL YOU GO WITH YOUR HEART? (Genesis 19:26)

- Leaving physically
- Lingering emotionally

**Note: You cannot move forward while mourning what God told you to leave.**

### IV. HOW FAR WILL YOU GO WITH YOUR RESOURCES?(Research Reality)

#### Money

- Most give 2–3% beyond themselves

#### Time

- Most give 1–2% of their year serving others

**Note: Distance is revealed by investment.**

### V. HOW FAR WILL YOU GO WHEN IT COSTS YOU?

- Serving when it's inconvenient
- Giving when it stretches you
- Showing up when it's uncomfortable

**Note: Most people don't quit — they settle.**

### VI. HOW FAR WILL OUR CHURCH GO? (A Brief Reality Check)

- Most churches last 50–70 years
- Most plateau 15–25 years after growth
- Most average under 100 attendees
- Many have fewer than 25 youth
- Average pastor age: 55–60
- Average member age: 55+

### VII. Primary Character Chosen: The Rich Young Ruler

**Text: Matthew 19:21–22 (NIV)**

16 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?” 17 “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.” 18 “Which ones?” he inquired. Jesus replied, “ ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, 19 honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’” 20 “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”

21 “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor... Then come, follow me. 22 ”When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

### **Eight Observations About the Rich Young Ruler**

1. He went far—but not far enough.
2. He is not rebellious, immoral, or careless.
3. He is sincere, moral, and religious—and refuses to go further
4. He didn’t argue.
5. He didn’t rebel.
6. He just walked away.
7. He wanted life—But not loss
8. He wanted Jesus—But not exchange

**Question:** Can you relate to this guy?

**Next Time:**  
**Be Honest With Yourself, Part 1**