Remember Lot’s Wife

Genesis 19:26

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

Nostalgia: A feeling of bittersweet longing or wistful affection for the past, often associated with a desire to return to a previous time or place. (AI definition from Google)

We can all relate to longing for something in the past, especially during these days. How many times are you scrolling through a social media account and you come across someone who posed the question, “You know what was the happiest memory from my childhood? Not paying bills!” And we can all relate! And we joke about the things like that; like taking a nap in our adulthood when we refused them in our childhood. Or when a song comes on and you’re suddenly taken back to that sunny afternoon; driving down a back country road with your windows down, singing along to that very song and you didn’t have a care in the world. I actually have an entire album that I remember a time in my life that was so blissful and perfect: a cool Fall night, driving with the last warm rays of sun shining through the trees, the promise of a future planned perfectly… Even writing this now I wish I could go back to that time. To see those family members who have passed on, experience those times you took for granted.

God, however, has a very important lesson on looking back at the past. If you don’t have many scriptures or stories memorized from the bible, there’s one you can remember - Lot’s wife. Well, you might not remember her specifically, there aren't actually a lot of details about her. Except one pretty big one. Out of all the women mentioned in the bible, 170 actually, there is only one woman that Jesus specifically talks about. He says in Luke 17:32 “Remember Lot’s wife”, in reference to warning the disciples about difficult times in the future when the Son of Man would return. And in these end times, things have gotten difficult (to say the least!) I feel like I’m battling the enemy every day, with no break in between. But, we aren’t to look back at our past and long for those times because then we have taken our eyes off of Jesus and the promises He has made for us. He has promised to take care of us, “Casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7 (NKJV). We don’t have any need to fear the future; tomorrow, next month, the next year, or this afternoon. We only have to remember, “It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” Deuteronomy 31:8 (ESV)

It’s OK to remember the past. Especially those times with family members no longer here or those summer nights spent with friends with no cares on the horizon. However, if you look back for too long your focus shifts on those times that are no more, and you not only miss the things happening now in your life, but you will miss things you don't even know about yet. You miss the promises Jesus has for you in this day and the future. Most of all, you show doubt that He is in control. Setting your eyes ahead on Him will save you. “But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.” Genesis 19:26 (NKJV). Not only was this disobedience (that’s a different devotional all together!), but this showed an attachment to the past. Having that attachment was greater than the promises of the future and all that God has in store for you. Looking back after deciding to follow Jesus is disobedience, and judgment is certain. Lot's wife is a lesson on attachment to the past, and an example of Spiritual death and eternal consequences. The pillar of salt represents her spiritual stillness and inability to move forward with faith and obedience. Her fate of being buried by brimstone and fire are a warning about the consequences of prioritizing worldly desires over God’s commands. And I get it, it is hard to let go of the worldly things that gave you so much happiness in the past. But God is faithful to His promises to take care of us, to give us shelter and rest under His wings. “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (ESV).

There will always be bumps in the road, some days they’re small little speed bumps, and some days they’re like those jumps that dirt bikers race over. Some days you may feel a gentle rise and fall and some days you might be hanging from the trees wondering what happened. But no matter what, through all the ups and downs, God has your back. And he will always take care of you, give you rest and a promise for the future. Turning your back on Him would mean faltering in your faith and your future with Him, so don’t forget to set your eyes on Him and walk forward into His hands.

“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

1 John 4:9-10 (ESV)

Lord God, thank You for taking care of me. Thank you for promising a reward in Heaven for me. Help me to be grateful for these things daily. Your mercies are new everyday and I pray that I would not take that for granted, either. Lord God, I pray that I never become like Lot’s wife, looking behind me instead of focusing my eyes on YOU. Guide me daily and help me to cherish those memories, but not stay in the past with them. I know you are my past, present, and future, Father God, and I thank You for that.

Your praise will ever be on my lips, and my hand will always be in Yours.

In Jesus’ mighty name I pray, AMEN.