

DON'T LOOK
BACK

LUKE 9:62

Luke 9:62

And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Introduction

A. Quotes about not looking back

- **“Don’t stumble over something behind you.”**
- **“Never look back. Nothing ever changes there.”**
- **“Never look back to the things which broke you once.”**
- **“Sometimes, the bravest thing you can do is to never look back.”**
- **“Stop looking back when your future is ahead of you.” - ...**

B. Looking back hinders forward progress

I. Don't Look Back At Sins That Have Been Forgiven

A. The Bible guarantees forgiveness

1 John 1:7-9

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I. Don't Look Back At Sins That Have Been Forgiven

B. God really does put our sins away

Psalm 103:12

As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

C. You need to believe this is true for you

Psalm 32:1 (Romans 4:7)

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

I. Don't Look Back At Sins That Have Been Forgiven

**D. But God has put away our sin, even our most
serious ones**

Hebrews 8:12

**For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and
their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.**

II. Don't Look Back At Defeats That Get You Down

A. All people have some defeats in their past

**B. Only those who never attempt anything are free
from failing**

C. God lifts up those who fall

Psalm 37:23-24

**23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD:
and he delighteth in his way.**

**24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down:
for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.**

II. Don't Look Back At Defeats That Get You Down

D. Do not allow failing to make you feel that you are a failure

Proverbs 24:16

**For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again:
but the wicked shall fall into mischief.**

Jude 1:24

**Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling,
and to present you faultless before the presence of his
glory with exceeding joy,**

III. Don't Look Back At The Past And See It Better Than It Was

Ecclesiastes 7:10

**Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days
were better than these? for thou dost not enquire
wisely concerning this.**

A. Israel looking back to Egypt

Numbers 11:18

**And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves
against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have
wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, Who shall give us
flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore
the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat.**

III. Don't Look Back At The Past And See It Better Than It Was

B. Distance lends enchantment

Numbers 11:5

We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

C. Nostalgia is never quite honest

Luke 5:39

No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.

“The present is never as good as it used to be”

- Vance Havner

IV. Don't Look Back At Old Conflicts That Make You Bitter

A. If you rehearse old conflicts the hurt returns

Acts 15:36-39

36 And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the LORD, and see how they do.

37 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

38 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.

IV. Don't Look Back At Old Conflicts That Make You Bitter

A. If you rehearse old conflicts the hurt returns

Acts 15:36-39 - continued

And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

IV. Don't Look Back At Old Conflicts That Make You Bitter

B. Forget the past and get on with profitable living

1 Peter 2:1-2

**1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and
hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,**

**2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the
word, that ye may grow thereby:**

V. Don't Look Back At Old Victories That May May Make You Complacent

Philippians 3:13-14

**13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended:
but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which
are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which
are before,**

**14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high
calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

V. Don't Look Back At Old Victories That May May Make You Complacent

A. Statements of complacency

“I served the Lord with all my heart ... once”

“I was a soul winner ... once”

“I was sold out to Christ ... once”

B. Symptoms of complacency

2 Timothy 4:10

**For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this
present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica;
Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.**

Look Up!

Look Around!!

Look Ahead!!!