

Don't Look Back, week 2: Get Past Your Past

Day 1: Breaking Free from the Past

Devotional: Have you ever felt trapped by your past? Whether it's mistakes that haunt us or successes we can't let go of, our history can become like invisible chains holding us back. Just like a bird that's been caged so long it fears flying even when the door is opened, we often stay bound by our past even when freedom is available. The truth is, God offers us a fresh start - a new identity that isn't defined by where we've been, but by whose we are.

Verse: "Then Jesus said to him, 'Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.' At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked." - John 5:8-9

Question: What aspects of your past are you allowing to define your present identity?

Quote: The problem with our past is that it becomes a matter of identity. And that's why it shackles us from what God wants us to do in our lives.

Prayer: Father, help me see myself as You see me. Give me the courage to step out of the cage of my past and into the freedom You offer. Thank You for making me new in Christ. Amen.

Day 2: Success Can Be a Shackle

Devotional: Success can be just as binding as failure. Like golden handcuffs, our achievements and blessings can become the very things that hold us back from God's best. Think about the rich young ruler - he had everything society valued, yet walked away from Jesus because he couldn't let go. Sometimes our greatest barrier to growth isn't our weakness, but our strength - not our failures, but our successes.

Verse: "Jesus looked at him and said, 'How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!'" - Luke 18:24

Question: What successes or achievements might God be asking you to hold loosely?

Quote: God will not pour his riches into hands already full.

Prayer: Lord, help me to hold my successes with open hands. Show me where I'm clutching too tightly to past achievements instead of trusting You for the future. Amen.

Day 3: Lessons, Not Life Sentences

Devotional: Our past experiences can teach us valuable lessons, but they shouldn't become life sentences. When we allow past hurts or failures to define us, we're living as if God's power to transform stops at our history. But God specializes in new beginnings. He's not working in your past - He's working in your present, crafting a future that's bigger than your history.

Verse: "Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.'" - Luke 9:23

Question: What past experiences have you turned into a life sentence instead of treating as a lesson?

Based on the sermons of Pastor John Markum. Reformatted with the help of AI.

Prayer: God, thank You that my past doesn't determine my future. Help me learn from my experiences without being defined by them. Show me how to walk in the freedom You provide. Amen.

Day 4: The Present-Tense God

Devotional: Our God isn't stuck in the past - He's the great I AM, not the I WAS. He's actively working in your present moment, creating new opportunities and fresh starts. When we focus too much on our past, we might miss what God is doing right now. He's not intimidated by your history - whether it's marked by success or failure. He's more interested in where you're going than where you've been.

Verse: "While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples." - Matthew 9:10

Question: What might God be trying to do in your present that your focus on the past is preventing you from seeing?

Quote: God is not working in the past tense. God is not working in your past. He's working in your present.

Prayer: Father, help me focus on what You're doing now rather than dwelling on the past. Open my eyes to see Your present work in my life. Amen.

Day 5: Total Surrender, Total Freedom

Devotional: The path to freedom from our past requires total surrender. It's not enough to partially let go - we must release everything to God. This might seem scary, but remember: no one who truly encounters Jesus leaves the same. When we fully surrender our past - both the pain and the glory - we create space for God to work in powerful new ways. He's ready to do something new in your life. Are you ready to let go?

Verse: "Jesus said to him, 'If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.'" - Luke 18:22

Question: What would total surrender to God look like in your life today?

Quote: Total surrender is required to have victory over our past.

Prayer: Lord, I surrender everything to You - my past, present, and future. Help me trust You completely and embrace the new things You want to do in my life. Amen.

Recommended Playlist:

[Stand in Your Love](#)

[Whom Shall I Fear](#)

[You Know Me](#)

[Surrender](#)