

Never Look Back

I finally rearranged my closet
And took those old books off the shelf
I ran across my high school annual
And saw that awful picture of myself
And I happened on your note there
I wondered at the wisdom you had

You said, Never give up, Never give in
Never forget me when you need a friend
Never give out, never turn back
Never let hard times push you off your track
Never look back

And isn't it just like God's wisdom
To put grace where He plans to lead
Today I needed grace to find me
And your words were there to meet my need

These lyrics written by the Christian band, Degarmo & Key have always given those who walk with Christ hope. Especially to me because I never thought that a decision that I made over ten years ago would come back to haunt me. It was made at a moment of desperation at that time while trying to keep up with the demands of ministry. That choice reappeared only to put myself in a position that would possibly alter my relationship with co-workers, friends, and others. When a friend approached me about the issue I knew immediately I was in the wrong and wanted to do whatever it took to make amends. My heart was in the right place and my actions were not intentional, but there was no doubt I crossed a line, and I would have to accept the consequences.

Just as King David responded when Nathan the Prophet confronted him of his sinful actions in 2nd Samuel 12 - I also fell to my knees seeking the Lord's forgiveness and mercy. It felt like a gut punch to my soul. Many thoughts and scenarios ran through my head about the possible repercussions or outcomes from my actions. I cried out like King David in Psalm 51, ***"Create in me a clean heart, O God! Renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me."*** And just like the writer of song quoted above, Jesus reminded me of a note that He left for me in His Word, ***"Come to me you who are weary and heavy burdened, and I will give you rest."*** (Matt 11:28)

We all have decisions and actions in our past that can return and haunt us. As the lyrics state in the song above; *...And isn't it just like God's wisdom, to put grace where He plans to lead. Today I needed grace to find me and your words were there to meet my need.* God knows the moments in our lives when past sins will find us again. This is why it is so important to have a close relationship with Him and hide His Word in our heart like **Psalm 130:3-5** or **1st John 1:9-10** (Please look up these verses). So that we will never give up, never give in, never give out, never turn back, and never let hard times push us off our track. And never look back.

Fight the Good Fight,

Bro. Andrew