



SERIES: A SEASON OF HOPE

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Monday, 12/14/20

Scripture: Philippians 3:12-14

TITLE: Let It Go

What's the biggest mistake of your life? “Whoa! Nat, why are you going there, bro? Why do you want to bring up the skeletons in the closet?” The reason I ask about your biggest mistake, is that today we're talking about forgiveness - Not just forgiveness, but about forgiving yourself for your past sins.

Listen to what the Apostle Paul says about letting go of the past:

¹² I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. ¹³ No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. (Phil. 3:12-14, NLT).

Paul got it, but humanly speaking, Paul shouldn't have got it. Paul was a religious zealot and a persecutor of the church. I'm not sure what your biggest sin or mistake was, but Paul had murder on his list of sins -- the organizing of persecution and murder of Christians. But according to Acts 9, Paul met a risen Jesus, and that changed everything. Paul went from a church persecutor to a church planter.

Now I don't know about you, but I'd have to think having the guilt of overseeing the death of innocent people would have to be a burden far too heavy to carry. Yet we know, according to Philippians 3, Paul knew he had to forget the past and look forward to what lies ahead.

Satan would love nothing more than to have you believe that your sins are far too great for God to forgive. Satan would love nothing more than for you to be trapped falsely. What God has forgiven, you must let go of. Where is it in your life that you need to forget the past, and look forward to what lies ahead?

The Bible teaches us that our sins are as far as the East is from the West when we become saved. When we become reborn in Christ, we become a new creation. The old things are past, and the new things have come. If you lied to a friend, Jesus says you are forgiven. Let it go. If you cheated on your spouse, Jesus says because of what I have done, and because of your repentance, you are forgiven. Let it go. If you aborted a child, Jesus says my grace is sufficient for you. You are forgiven. Let it go.

The only unforgivable sin is the rejection of the gift of Salvation. If you have repented of your sins, and receive the gift that only God can offer through His Son, Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Here's my challenge for you today: if you are struggling with forgiving yourself, remember the God of the Universe has forgiven you. When the One who created you, and gave up His Son for you, says you are forgiven, you can forget about your past.

Today, cry out to God, and ask to feel and to see His forgiveness. When you start to feel overwhelmed because of your past, when you begin to feel like your past defines you, declare out loud: “I am forgiven, and I am free.”