

God is SO Good

One of my favorite authors, Philip Yancey, tells a story about Zhang Guolao, a 7th century Chinese religious leader. It is said that Guolao rode his mule backward everywhere he went because he was more interested in reflecting on where he had been than looking forward to where he was going. I think this is really interesting! It also got me thinking, "Do I think more about where I am going or where I have been?"

There is value in both looking forward and looking back; even the Scriptures do both. The Old Testament consistently point to Jesus — the coming messiah— while the Gospels and Epistles frequently refer back to the Old Testament and point out the fulfillment of prophecy.

While it may come more naturally for many to look ahead and ask, "What is next?", it is also very important to reflect on what God has already done.

"Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me." Psalm 103:2

I can easily start a list of things I want to do better, things that I want to accomplish, or things I wish were true. Instead, what if I spent more time thinking about how God has loved me, kept me, provided for me, healed me, delivered me, protected me? When I stop and think about where and how God has led me, I feel so much more secure in His hand to guide me, to call me to the next thing he has for me.

Try riding the mule backward today. Take time that you might have spent worrying about tomorrow to reflect on God's goodness in the past and his goodness today. What has he done in your life? How has he demonstrated His faithfulness again and again? The One who has provided every blessing throughout your life is leading you into a future He is calling you to.

Heavenly Father, Thank You for Your faithfulness and goodness. You have blessed me in more ways than I know, but especially with the gift of Your Son Jesus. Help me to recognize all that You have done in my life and to trust You with all of who I am — today and tomorrow. Amen.

~ Eric Gerken, Director of Family & Youth Ministry

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