

THROWING AWAY UNNECESSARY LUGGAGE

Are you going somewhere? Maybe you have someplace to be? Is there a destination you are responsible for reaching within a certain time period? If you answered yes, then I must be talking to you. Your life itinerary is the primary objective of my call to get your attention. In the book of Philippians, the Apostle Paul writes and I paraphrase:

“Brethren I count not myself to have apprehended or obtained my goal but this one thing I do forgetting these things which are behind and reaching forth to those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14).

He expresses an honest statement when he says *“I count not myself to have apprehended.”* He says to you and me that I have not reached my destiny, but I have done what is necessary to in getting there, by forgetting those things which are behind. The word “forget” is defined in Webster’s dictionary and thesaurus as “the ability to lose remembrance of or to be unable to recall.” In the same context, “to forget” is in high relation to the word “forgive”, which is defined as “the ability to give up or pardon. To forget means to let go ahead of time. Let me park here for a moment.

In order to honestly forget and move on, you HAVE to forgive. I don’t mean you go to God in prayer and say: *Father forgive me for any sin I committed through word, thought, prayer or deed and forgive me for each time I have fallen short of your glory.* That is not true repentance. Those are just mere words. If you are going to forget those things that are behind and truly press towards the mark, then you need true repentance. I used to think that it was all right to pray like that. One day, I discovered the baggage kept coming back. Its timing was impeccable. The baggage would show up in strange ways and places. It knew what buttons to push.

I was coming from Bible study one night and was hungry. I told my husband I had a taste for some chicken, not just any chicken, but Popeye’s chicken. Now, I like the drive-thru, my husband prefers to go in. His logic is, they can will mess up your order in the drive-thru. Well, anyway we go in. There are a bunch of people hanging

around. So, I politely asked if everyone has ordered. Most of the folks said yes. So I proceeded to go place my order. Right at that moment, someone starts yelling and cursing me out and accusing me of jumping in front of them. I turn around and said: *I asked everyone in here if they'd placed their order; if you responded with a no, my apologies. I did not hear you.* Well she kept on yelling and cursing. My baggage showed up and showed out. That was not my finest moment. My husband grabbed my collar and yanked me back. By the way, I did get my chicken :o)

Now what was that really all about? That should have been handled differently. Of course most of the patrons in the place told me I was justified, but that does not excuse my behavior. What baggage was I carrying? I learned earlier in life how to resolve disputes; by yelling and fighting. I realized I still had residue from past abusive relationships. Although, I was no longer in an abusive relationship, I never truly forgave myself or let go of the incidents that were inflicted upon me. I just moved on; with baggage in tow. I carried the same baggage with different articles of clothing in it. It was time to burn the baggage. What baggage are you still carrying? It's time to relinquish it. You've had it long enough. Besides, you do not have the luxury of revisiting an unprofitable past episodes of your life.

The Big Trip

Have you ever been in a hurry getting ready for a big trip? In the process of getting your luggage together, you were looking for one vital necessity. No matter where you looked, you could not find or locate. Maybe, you were unable to find it because things were unorganized within your room or closet. In order to locate the necessity, you found it necessary to do a crash course in house cleaning. In reaching your destiny, it is imperative you remove unnecessary baggage from your mind? You've heard the saying "check your baggage at the door." Well, it's time to get rid of the baggage/luggage you have carried every place you have been. The only thing different is you added some new pieces.

My parents had some *Samsonite* luggage. Those bags were hard as bricks. No matter what you did to them, you could not destroy them. When it came time for packing, out came that old luggage. The only thing that changed may have been the clothes we placed inside. It is important for you to get rid of your old luggage. Time is of the essence and for there to be clarity in front of you, you must effectively forget "let go"

of your past. It is a decision you must make. God has plans to take you on a big trip. There are many things He wants you to see and do. The plan and purpose is already in place. However, you first need to get rid of some unnecessary luggage. There is a weight limitation and you are over the limit. *Lay aside every weight and sin that so easily besets you.*”(Hebrews 12:1b)

Everyday there must be a commitment to move forward, press forward and not look behind. When you open the door and that luggage is still there that is what you will continue to use.

Appointment with Destiny

What you look at frequently is that to which you will naturally gravitate. During the Summer Olympics, world class sprinters have been trained to race with their eyes focused on the finish line. Their eyes are on their destination. They are trained to look forward and resist the temptation of looking either on their left or right and certainly not behind. Their destination is too important for them to take their eyes off their goal.

Where are your eyes focused? Are your eyes centered on the finish line? F-O-C-U-S! There is a prize before you. There is a place with your name on it. A place where there is a reward for your arrival. There is a destiny for you to achieve. In order to reach that place, you must turn up the top soil, abandon what is behind and let go of the unnecessary luggage of our past failures, past hurts, past disappointments and pursue the real passion of our heart: the dream you wake up for each day.

Because you have an appointment with destiny, you must be there in time to take flight and soar into immortality. Don't miss the opportunity of a lifetime revisiting your past and forfeiting your future. Time is ticking. There is a mandate for your arrival and an appointment just for you. Your destiny is the piece that solves the puzzle. It's the cornerstone to your life having meaning. All your trials, tests, and testimonies have meaning when you discover and pursue your destiny. In order to fully make your future the present, you must fully abandon your past by deciding to make your past less valuable than your future. YOU are your greatest asset; why not

invest you into your future? The bible says *“the end of a thing is better than the beginning”* (Ecclesiastes 7:8 NKJV). Choose your destiny it’s worth the journey.

“Whatever you vividly imagine, ardently desire, sincerely believe and enthusiastically act upon must inevitably come to pass.” —Paul J. Meyer