

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

Last week my daughter finished her history course at BCI. For her last assignment she had to choose somebody to interview who could share their memories about their past experiences in school and life. Many of my daughter's classmates chose to interview their parents for this assignment. My daughter chose to skip over my generation and interview her 91-year-old grandma instead. She made a wise choice in choosing her grandma because she could provide some interesting insights having grown up through the Depression and World War II.

I took my daughter over to her grandma's and sat in another room as they did the interview. I could hear all of the questions being asked, as well as every one of my mother's responses. Even though I had heard some of my mother's experiences before, it was still quite interesting to hear her share with her granddaughter what life was like back then. I also found it fascinating to see how my daughter led the interview and asked questions that were not required of the assignment.

My daughter loved hearing all of these stories from her grandma. I think Grandma loved it just as much. In fact, both of them were talking about how much they enjoyed it afterward. On the car ride home, my daughter was sharing how much she enjoyed doing this assignment and how thankful she was to her history teacher for making it possible. Grandma could not wait to tell her friends the next day at lunch how much she enjoyed being interviewed and sharing her memories. In fact, the next day Grandma began to tell my daughter even more stories that she remembered after the interview.

After the interview was over, my mom said to my daughter, "You better tell your history teacher that Grandma expects you will get a mark as high as your grandma's age!" When she submitted her assignment, my daughter told her history teacher what Grandma had said. Later that week, the history teacher sent my daughter her grade for the assignment. He said, "It was a walk down memory lane for me to listen to the interview you did with your grandma. She will be happy to know that I gave you a mark above her age." He did exactly that. She got 96% on that assignment. If Grandma was 99 years old right now

my daughter might have pulled off a perfect mark. It is a good thing she did not interview me as she might have only got a 57% based on my age.

As I reflected upon this, I could not help but think that so many people right now could be blessed by doing the exact same thing with somebody special in their life. We all have people in our lives that have special memories from experiences they have had over the years. Perhaps some of you still have a grandparent in your life like my daughter does. Maybe you are blessed like me to have a parent who is alive from whom you have not heard all of their stories. Or maybe that person is a dear friend or an adult sibling that you can stroll with down memory lane. Taking the time to do this can be a very special bonding experience as my daughter and mom shared recently.

Once you find that person, all you need to do is think of a subject to talk about like my daughter did asking her grandma what school and fashions were like when she was growing up. With Christmas approaching, talking about past holidays would be a great discussion to have with that special person. Every one of us has memories about past Christmases and this topic would be an easy one to start with. The time will fly by quickly as you share these memories. A lot of laughs and smiles will take place. Afterward, you may come away from the experience thankful for having done so. You will have learned a few things about that other person you did not know and realized the special bond you have with them. I think this is something we all need to do after the last 18 months we have had in the midst of this pandemic. We have not been able to get together with many family members and friends to share memories. We will be giving them, and ourselves, a much-needed gift by doing so. I hope you do this with somebody during this holiday season.

I hope another topic that you will eventually share with somebody is your special memories about **what God has done for you in life**. This is one area in our life that we struggle with sharing with others. God has done so much for us through the course of our lives. I still remember some of my mother's stories how God provided for her family as they lived through the Depression. There were times they did not have a lot of food, but they always had enough. I have heard her tell other stories about how God helped her family during the war years. We all have stories about God's faithfulness that we can share with others.

If you are uncomfortable sharing these stories of faith with others, why not start out by taking a stroll down memory lane with God. **Talk to Him** as you would a family member or friend about the times you remember through the course of your life when He has been there for you. It will be **a valuable reminder to you how good God has been to you through the years** and draw you even closer to Him. It is my hope that you will do this with God at some point during the holiday season. Afterward, you will find yourself smiling, and thankful for having taken the time to do so. As well, you will then have another topic one day to sit down and share with somebody special about all of the things God has done for you.

These are valuable stories we need to share with others. Just think how few stories in the Bible we would have if people before us had not done this. We have been blessed by their stories of faith. It is our time to share our stories of faith with others too, so they can be a blessing and source of inspiration to them. Who better to start with than somebody close and special to you? I hope a certain grandma will get this opportunity with her granddaughter one day. I think God hopes you get this opportunity with somebody special too.

Keep safe and God Bless

Pastor Dean