

Walking Series

Look Forward Not Backward

(Paul wrote) ...*I focus on this one thing:
Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead.*

Philippians 3:13

The first eighteen years of my life were lived in a tiny farmhouse where a weeklong accumulation of laundry was loaded in the trunk of the Dodge and hauled seven miles east to a laundromat in Pampa. I helped mom load and unload the car, the washing machine, the dryers, and begin the very boring process of folding cloths at designated tables. I preferred riding my horse from sunrise to well after sunset on a full moon night, and the laundromat was something I had no desire to return to. That is until I worked a deal with Sandy. In our household, I wash, dry, and fold with the understanding that I watch my favorite inspirational movies during the process.

I have a method for fully engaging in laundry at our home in Grapevine. Here's the way it works. I have fifteen movies on DVD that are my all-time favorites. Sandy enjoyed them when we saw them in a movie theater, but she has little interest in watching them again...and again...and again.... I on the other hand could watch one a day for fifteen days and start over. *Secretariat* is in my favored DVD stockpile and is currently waiting patiently for me to hit the start button when the clothes folding is about to begin. *Secretariat* rotates with *Hoosiers*, *The Kings Speech*, *Finding Forrester*, *Coach Carter*, *Remember the Titans*, *Seabiscuit*, *Glory Road*, and...and...and.... I think you get the picture.

Folding clothes after washing and drying is when I watch movies that I consider uplifting and positive, and yes, I still have a TV with a DVD. Unlike childhood and teen years, our two machines do it all without loading, traveling, unloading, washing, and drying, reloading, and driving seven miles west to Kingsmill. Now, if I have enough clothes for thirty minutes of folding, I'm thrilled. Generally, I watch in ten-to-fifteen-minute intervals. It takes several days to finish, but I don't care provided I watch all the way to the credits.

Tuesday of this week I was several folding's into *Secretariat* when I heard the following lines. Penny Chenery (played by Diane Lane) is in a heated discussion with her husband and brother over a tax issued related to the death of her father. The men see the only way to solve the problem is to sell *Secretariat* to satisfy the tax debt. When Penny said "No" to their proposal, her brother pointed out that if the horse didn't win the Triple Crown, his value would drop to half his current value. Her brother said, "If that happens, we can't go back...". I simply love Penny's response, "This is not about going back."

The past years of pandemic and harsh winter by Texas standards have caused tears and hardships. Many people experienced personal illness, loss of loved ones from Covid, houses and churches flooded from frozen pipes, cold nights without light or heat, and severely limited communication. It's easy to remember those events, but we can't look back and wish it had been better. We can only move forward with new determination.

Instead of identifying what's wrong with the indignities of the past, we can say "what's right with this day?" then move forward with confidence. We remember that going back is not the solution, it is the race ahead that makes us whole again.

So, I leave you with one more opportunity to read Penny Chenery's words...

"This is not about going back. This is about life being ahead of you and you run at it!
Because you never know how far you can run unless you run."

FYI: Ms. Penny's horse did indeed win the Triple Crown in 1973. Fifty years later this summer, he still holds the fastest times in the Kentucky Derby and the Belmont Stakes. I for one, am happy she looked forward.

*Peace Always,
Ted*