

Sunday, November 12, 2023

## Scripture Reading: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

*Don't live your life regretting yesterday. Live your life so tomorrow you won't regret today.*  
—Catherine Pulsifer

As senior citizens, it's natural that we spend time looking back over the events of our lives—good or bad. It's not that we're "living in the past," as many accuse us. It's rather that memories warm us up inside; nostalgia feels good.

As for the sad things, we don't dwell on them. As pastor Rick Warren said, "We are products of our past, but we don't need to be prisoners of it."

Still, as we consider the past, it is possible we might have regrets. When we make choices in life, many of them don't matter and are quickly forgotten. Chocolate or strawberry? Red or blue? Cotton or nylon? Earth tones or neon? Jane Austen or Thomas Hardy? Beethoven or Mozart? Apple or PC?

When AARP took a survey, however, of what seniors most regretted about the choices they made in the past, they narrowed the many responses to five. See if any of these resonant with you. The top five—

1. I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.
2. I wish I didn't work so hard.
3. I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings.
4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.
5. I wish that I had let myself be happier.

Does this list include some of your own regrets?

I ask, because our Bible reading today from Joshua 24 concerns an old man nearing the end of his life. In his youth, he had been a spy, scouting out the land of Canaan and reporting to Moses. Then he succeeded Moses and led the Israelites across the Jordan. He was the victor in the famous battle for Jericho when the "walls came a-tumblin' down."

I don't know if he had regrets. But in this reading, he challenges all of Israel to make a choice. If they made the right choice, they would never regret the choice they'd made. He said, "Choose this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (24:15).

The past cannot be changed. But your future can. It can be regret-free. Whom will you serve?

—Timothy Merrill

For the full AARP article, see Bronnie Ware, "5 Top Regrets of the Dying," aarp.org. [no date] Retrieved April 15, 2023.

*Prayer: Lord, I have no other God but you. Today and for my remaining years, I choose you.*  
*Amen.*

*Blessings,  
Lia & Pastor Ben Motz*

## DOES IT ADD UP?

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Sunday:** Acts 27

**Monday:** Acts 28

**Tuesday:** Ephesians 4-5

**Wednesday:** Ephesians 6

**Thursday:** Colossians 1-2

**Friday:** Colossians 3-4

**Saturday:** Psalm 132

**It's N-ovember! Can you name the answers to these geography questions where all answers begin with 'N'?**

|       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
| ?     | 7 | 2 |
| 3     | ? | 8 |
| <hr/> |   |   |
| 4     | 7 | ? |

1. Its capital is Concord.
2. The tomb of this former resident of the isle of Elba is located in Paris.
3. It is bordered by California, Oregon, Utah, Arizona and Idaho.
4. The origin of this state's name derives from an Oto Indian word meaning "flat water."
5. It is the most densely populated city (of those over 100,000) in the United States.
6. At 4,130 miles, it is generally regarded as the world's longest river.
7. This notorious Roman emperor ruled in Rome during the lifetime of the apostle Paul.
8. It is the capital and largest city of Kenya in Africa.
9. It is called the country music capital of America.
10. It is often called Holland.
11. Jesus lived here as a boy.
12. This country is famous for its fjords.
13. These provinces are in eastern Canada.
14. This Massachusetts island used to be a whaling center.
15. The words "code talkers" are strongly associated with this Native American nation, and the bilingual speakers who were specially recruited during World War II to send tactical messages.

**N-ovember:** 1. New Hampshire; 2. Napoleon; 3. Nevada; 4. Nebraska; 5. New York City; 6. Nile; 7. Nero; 8. Nairobi; 9. Nashville; 10. Netherlands; 11. Nazareth; 12. Norway; 13. Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia; 14. Nantucket; 15. Navajo.

Does it add up? Solution: 072+398=470



NOVEMBER