

Luke 10:39 “She had a sister named Mary, which also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard his word.”

NEWSLETTER: “MOMENTS WITH MARY”

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“THE ROAD BEFORE US!”

Phil.3:11-14 LB “So, whatever it takes, I will be one who lives in the fresh newness of life of those who are alive from the dead. I don’t mean to say I am perfect. I haven’t learned all I should even yet, but I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ saved me for and wants me to be. No, dear brothers, I am still not all I should be but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing; Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead. I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us.”

The road before us! A new year with many decisions to make! Our choices will determine which road we will take. We need wisdom for sound judgments. We cannot avoid all strife and troubles, for they are a natural part of life. When we approach a new beginning of any kind, it makes good sense to stop and reflect on where we have been and how that affected our lives and those we care about.

The Passage above tells us to “forget the past”! What does that mean? One thing it does *not* mean is loss of memory! I believe it means we must carefully evaluate what has occurred lately. We all make mistakes and sometimes carry burdens longer than the LORD intended for us to do! If we dwell on these things without laying them at Jesus’ feet, they can and probably will, cloud the goals and future the Lord has for us. As we prepare for our future, we need to seek valuable lessons from our past so we can make wise choices for the road that lies before us. [Jer. 29:11 LB “For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”]

As we leave the old behind us and start our journey into the new, we need examine our hearts to see what kind of desires are within us. What would we like to accomplish in our personal lives and families? Does this line up with God’s Word? Are we willing to break old habits and attitudes that have hindered our past journey? If we are diligent to seek God’s approval and not just fulfill our own selfish ways, we can arrive at the next lap of our lives without shame or regrets.

There are usually some things we really do need to “forget” that lie in our past! What about self-pity? Many folks reflect on what they perceive should have been in their lives but was not. They can feel so sorry for themselves and fail to see how that can affect those around them! What about depression over situations they have no control? If you could not and God did not for whatever reason, ask Him to lift you out of the pit! Disappointments, angers and lack of forgiveness for others and self will cause us to wander about in the Valley of Yesterday instead of pressing on through Today with Tomorrows goals in mind! We need to release the spirit of mourning over

the past and ask God to help us go forth on the road before us! Don't let the past control your todays!

Is one of your goals to know Christ better? We need to put into practice our knowledge of God's ways if we want to advance with Him in the New Year! Any long journey requires a time of rest. Have you paused long enough to sort out what should be the priorities and written them down? When we do this it seems to help make us more accountable to our selves and to the LORD! When we renew God's Promises to our own personal heart, it builds fresh hope that will energize our journey! We have a choice today! We can renew our vision and gain new hope and press on with His strength and wisdom!

May the LORD bless you in the New Year! If you have questions, comments or prayer requests, I can be reached at the above addresses. Visit our website at:

www.momentwithmary.org

Love in Christ, Mary Mayko

“PRESS ON!”

By Mary Mayko 1993

The old year has faded and is now gone, as the New Year appears, press on!

The old has memories both sad and dear, some happy or boring but all quite clear!

As we look at the old, we must decide! What will we discard and what shall abide!

Our minds need strength to press on with hope, when *we are overloaded*, we can't cope!

What a joy to be able to say, we have renewed our mind thru the Word each day!

I must sort through the thoughts I have had, keep the good, and toss out the bad!

When I let the Word direct my way, it fills me with hope to press on each day!

I'll overcome troubles when to God I talk, as I press on thru attacks on my daily walk!

He desires that I gain His heavenly prize, so He helps me along until I can look into His eyes.

Help me O LORD as I seek Your dear Face, be faithful and press on until I win the race!

From **“Voices of the Heart”** by Mary Mayko