



Scripture nugget – God is able to make an oasis in our desert

Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the wilderness I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers (Isaiah 43:18-19).

Remember not the sad events of the past (cf. Isaiah 43:18). Whenever we are trapped in the unhappy past, we cannot live our lives fully because we fail to make use of the graces which are provided only for the present moment. If we allow it, our past mistakes and sins can make their ugly marks of self-loathing, self-unforgiveness, self-pity, self-rejection, despair and other negative feelings about self, disfiguring our souls. To live in bondage to the sad past is to fall into the trap of the Evil One who wants to sow doubts about the fullness of God's forgiveness and the power of His love to make everything new despite the damage done by our sins. Thus, Satan leverages on our pride to keep us negatively focused on ourselves and our sins, and he uses our weak faith to undermine our trust in God as he attempts to keep a poor soul bonded to the unhappy past. In focusing negatively on ourselves, we forget the power of God's love and mercy. We are trapped in a tunnel vision which keeps us very unhappy. Yet, this is unnecessary and not reflective of the victory Christ won for us (cf. Romans 8:37) but is the unsavory work of the devil.

God is able to make an oasis in our desert. God's greatest work is the conversion of souls. Before St Paul was converted, he was an active persecutor of Christians. However, once he was converted, St Paul's life became a mighty instrument of God. Understanding the greatness of God's mercy and forgiveness, St Paul did not let his sinful past become an obstacle to his faith in Christ. Instead, St Paul testified with great conviction that it was as if he no longer lived but it was Christ Who lived in him (cf. Galatians 2:19-20). God is able to turn our desert into an oasis. In the Confessional the greatest of miracles takes place unseen by human eyes. Jesus said to St Faustina: *Write, speak of My mercy. Tell souls where they are to look for solace, that is, in the Tribunal of Mercy [the Sacrament of Reconciliation]. There the greatest miracles take place [and] are incessantly repeated. To avail oneself of this miracle, it is not necessary to go on a great pilgrimage, or to carry out some external ceremony; it suffices to come with faith to the feet of My representative and to reveal to him one's misery, and the miracle of Divine Mercy will be fully demonstrated. Were souls like a decaying corpse so that from a human standpoint there would be no [hope of] restoration and everything would already be lost, it is not so with God. The miracle of Divine Mercy restores that soul in full (St Faustina's Diary #1448).*

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, I exist because of Your everlasting love for me (cf. Jeremiah 31:3). I surrender my unhappy, sinful past to You. Please forgive all my past mistakes and sins. I believe You can make an oasis out of the desert of my past life. Through Your Precious Blood and the power of Your love, I can gain a new life in grace. No matter what I think of myself, I am precious in the eyes of my Heavenly Father. Because of what You have done for me, I can stand before the throne of God in Your righteousness, fully justified as if I had never sinned! Such is the mighty work of Your love! May I live my life to praise and glorify You as You deserve. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. www.twohearts.hk