



## “ROSY RETROSPECTION”

Standalone Message: Part 1 of 1

Sunday, January 28, 2024, at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Mat Saxon | Latham Campus Pastor

### I. **Nostalgia can distort and rewrite the past.**

Rosy Retrospection bias: our tendency to recall the past more fondly than the present, all else being equal.

“Rosy retrospection is a product of how our brains process memory over time. One reason that older adults have a more rosy picture of the past, which for them is young adulthood, may be because those time periods coincide with more emotionally salient memories. Known as the reminiscence bump, the most vivid long-term memories are often sourced from the ages between 10-30, with a concentration of memories of personal events occurring during one’s 20’s, when many of life’s significant moments occur.”

Ecclesiastes 7:10 (ESV), “Say not, ‘Why were the former days better than these?’ For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.”

Ecclesiastes 7:10 (NLT), “Don’t long for ‘the good old days.’ This is not wise.”

Numbers 11:4-5 (ESV), “Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, “Oh that we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic.”

Numbers 14:3 (ESV), “Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?”

Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 (ESV), “What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. Is there a thing of which it is said, “See, this is new”? It has been already in the ages before us.”

Job 5:7 (ESV), “but man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward.”

## **II. Nostalgia can blind us to today's blessings.**

Ezra 3:12 (ESV), "But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy."

James 1:17a (ESV), "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights."

## **III. Nostalgia can turn us into crotchety, fault-finding grumblers.**

Psalms 142:1-2 (ESV), "With my voice I cry out to the Lord; with my voice I plead for mercy to the Lord. I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him."

Numbers 11:1-6 (NLT), "If only the Lord had killed us back in Egypt," they moaned. "There we sat around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death. So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "By evening you will realize it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt. In the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaints, which are against him, not against us..."

Jude 15 (ESV), "to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

Jude 15-16a (ESV), "to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." These are grumblers, malcontents..."

1 Corinthians 10:7-10 (ESV), "Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer."

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV), "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

#### **IV. Nostalgia can fill us with fear about the future.**

“Despair is Satan’s masterpiece; it carries men headlong to hell as the devils did the herd of swine into the deep.” - Thomas Brooks

##### **Why shouldn’t we despair?**

- Although the world can be a scary place, we frequently overreact to current events.
- Because Christ has the final say.

Romans 8:35-39 (ESV), “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”