

Dear Current Self,

“Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.”

When I was a freshman in college, I had a small poster in my dorm with this quote from the movie *Ferris Buehler’s Day Off*. I still have it in my house today. It felt true at age 18. It has felt more true every day since then. I don’t have to tell my current self that life moves pretty fast. I am well aware of that. I think the reason I have always loved this quote so much is because it reminds me that being busy doesn’t always mean I’m living a truly full life. My life can be moving along quickly, full of activity and appointments and obligations, and I could still miss *it*.

I could still miss out on the full and abundant life that Jesus has intended for me.

Life offers more than enough options to keep us busy. I’m rarely lacking tasks to fill my day, but I wonder if all those tasks are actually fulfilling. I wonder if my busyness is pointing me in the right direction. I have goals that seem to go undone day after day. I have dreams that sit on the shelf as time keeps flying by.

What my current self needs now is a strong sense of priorities. A sense of what to focus on now, what to save for a later time and what to leave out entirely. A sense of what is the greatest use of time as opposed to good uses of time. A sense of who God wants me to be so I can focus on that more and less on who the world wants me to be.

*One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, “Which command in God’s Law is the most important?” Jesus answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. These two commands are the pegs; everything else hangs from them.”*

*Mt. 22:34-40*

Of all the options that today offers, I hope I prioritize these two things. I hope to spend intentional time loving God. I hope I focus on loving others as myself. The world offers a lot of tempting possibilities of who I can be. I’ve spent time prioritizing being successful, impressive and in perfect shape. None of those things have been as fulfilling as prioritizing being a follower of Jesus.

Life moves pretty fast. It will pull us in all sorts of directions and keep us endlessly busy. When I stop and look around every once in a while, I hope I see a life focused on love and service and joy.