

A Story of Moments

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, along the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Look

Despite our planning, we often find ourselves lost in a moment quite easily. I “planned” to eat healthier, but that dessert just looked too good. I “planned” to leave early, but I stopped to give my son an extra hug before leaving. The ripple effect of these moments can be felt for a while.

1. What is a plan you had today that got derailed, either slightly or dramatically, due to small moments?
2. How did you feel about the plan getting derailed? Were the small moments worth the consequences?
3. What makes a moment important in the story of your life instead of merely a distraction?

Book

Luke 15:1–3,11b–32

In this exchange, we are presented with two very different viewpoints. Mary represents an active approach, honoring Jesus while he is there. Judas represents a thoughtful approach of what could have been done instead.

1. What stands out to you about Mary’s part in this story?
2. Setting aside Judas’ motives, are you surprised at Jesus’ response to his suggestion?
3. Which role, action or thoughtful, do you most identify with? How does this story make you feel about that?

Took

Our faith journeys are stories for sure. However they are each a story made up of many moments. Those moments are rich with detail, powerful with effect, and intimate in their importance. It is important to value those past moments as well as be fully present in the new moments.

1. How does giving more of ourselves to a moment help enrich what we get back from it?
2. Why is having a few intentional moments more powerful to a faith story than many passing moments?
3. What can you do differently this week to be more present in the precious moments God presents you with?