

MONDAY, JULY 18

*Distress that drives us to God does that. It turns us around.
It gets us back in the way of salvation. We never regret that kind of pain.
But those who let distress drive them away from God are full of regrets.*

2 Corinthians 7:10 (MSG)

I ENJOY READING about Jesus's encounters with people on earth, and how their lives were dramatically changed because of Him. When I look at their sordid backgrounds and activities, I realize most were lost without hope. But Jesus came "to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10).

For the most part, those individuals made a 180-degree turn because Jesus's forgiveness and love spun them around and spurred them to a new way of living.

Zacchaeus, a short, hated tax collector was pursued by Jesus. After he encountered Jesus, he wanted to give away half of his possessions to the poor and return over four times what he'd acquired through his cheating habits (Luke 19:8). Jesus also shared His grace and mercy with the woman at the well. The first thing she did was to leave her water jar at the well and run to tell others about Jesus and what He had done for her. (John 4:28-29).

In the past, I've wasted both time and energy looking over my shoulder. Regrets can paralyze us. But I noticed in each of Jesus's encounters, the

people didn't focus time on regrets. They focused on the future, resting in Jesus, the great Life-changer.

Years ago, I got tired of craning my neck to look backward. So I adopted a new slogan for my life with Jesus's help: "No guilt, no regrets; only grace and gratitude—and joy." Each time the temptation arises to linger on regrets, I remember to rest in Jesus and repeat those words.

What a difference that's made in my life!—REBECCA BARLOW JORDAN

FAITH STEP: Do you waste time thinking about past regrets? Today, rest in Jesus and write your own life motto.