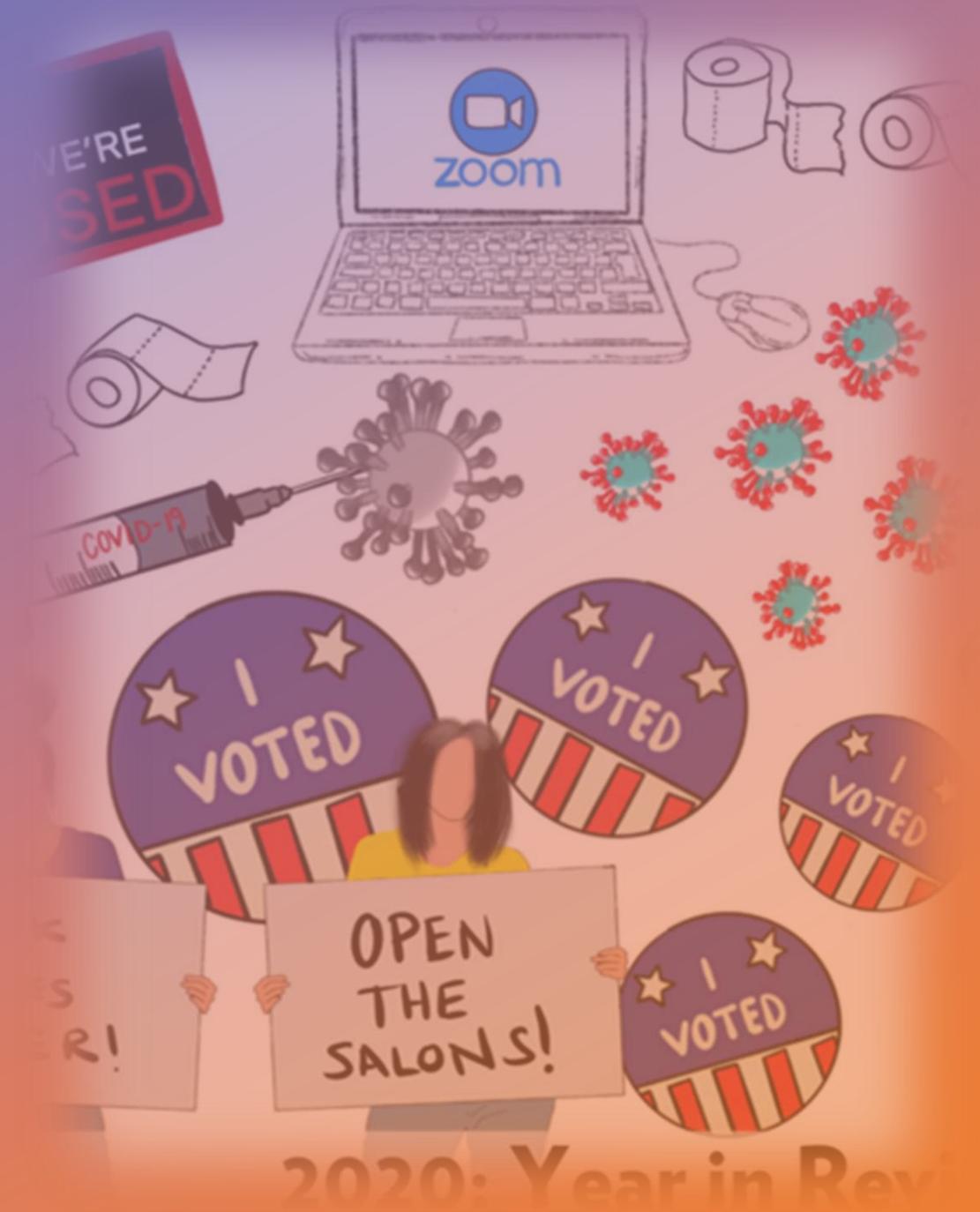
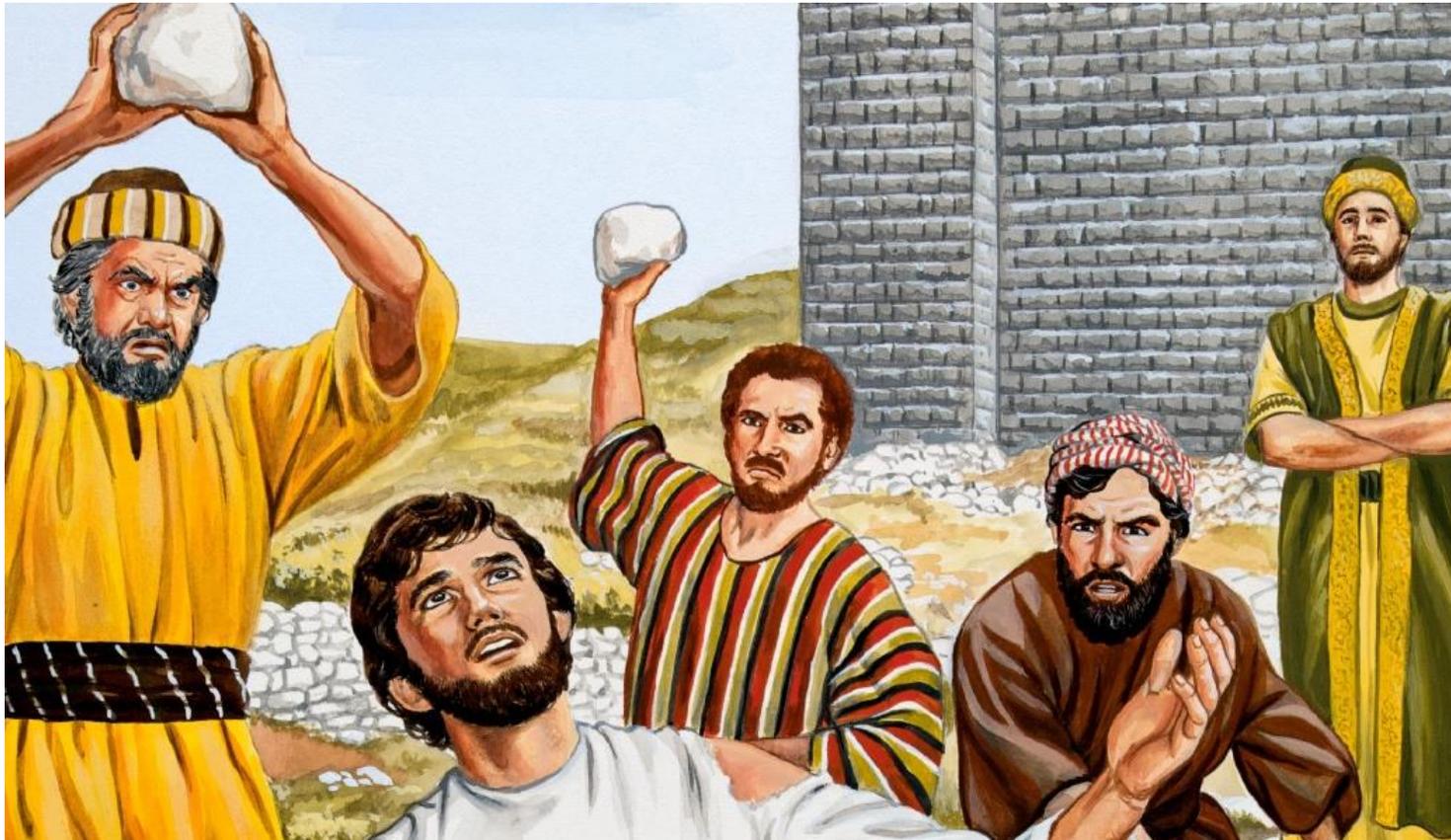


Forgetting the Past and Reaching Forward

“...but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead...” – Phil. 3:13



St. Paul and His Past



“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.” (1 Tim. 1:12-13)

Outline



What should we forget about the past?



What to remember from the past?



Application

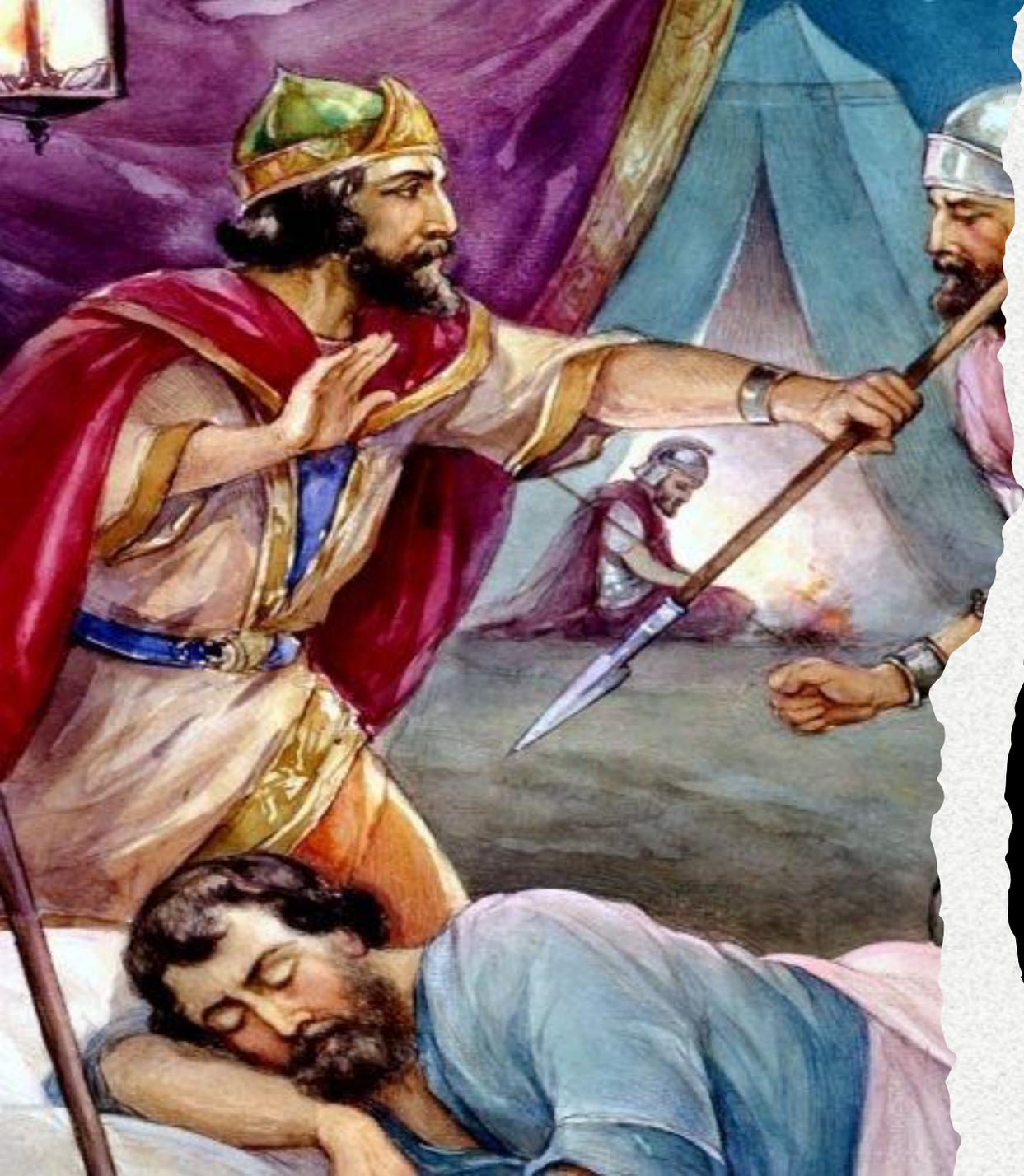


What should we forget about
the past?

1. What is sinful

- “For I am conscious of my iniquity; and my sin is at all times before me.” (Ps. 50:3 LXX)
- EX: People of Israel
- “Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!” (Num. 11:4-6)



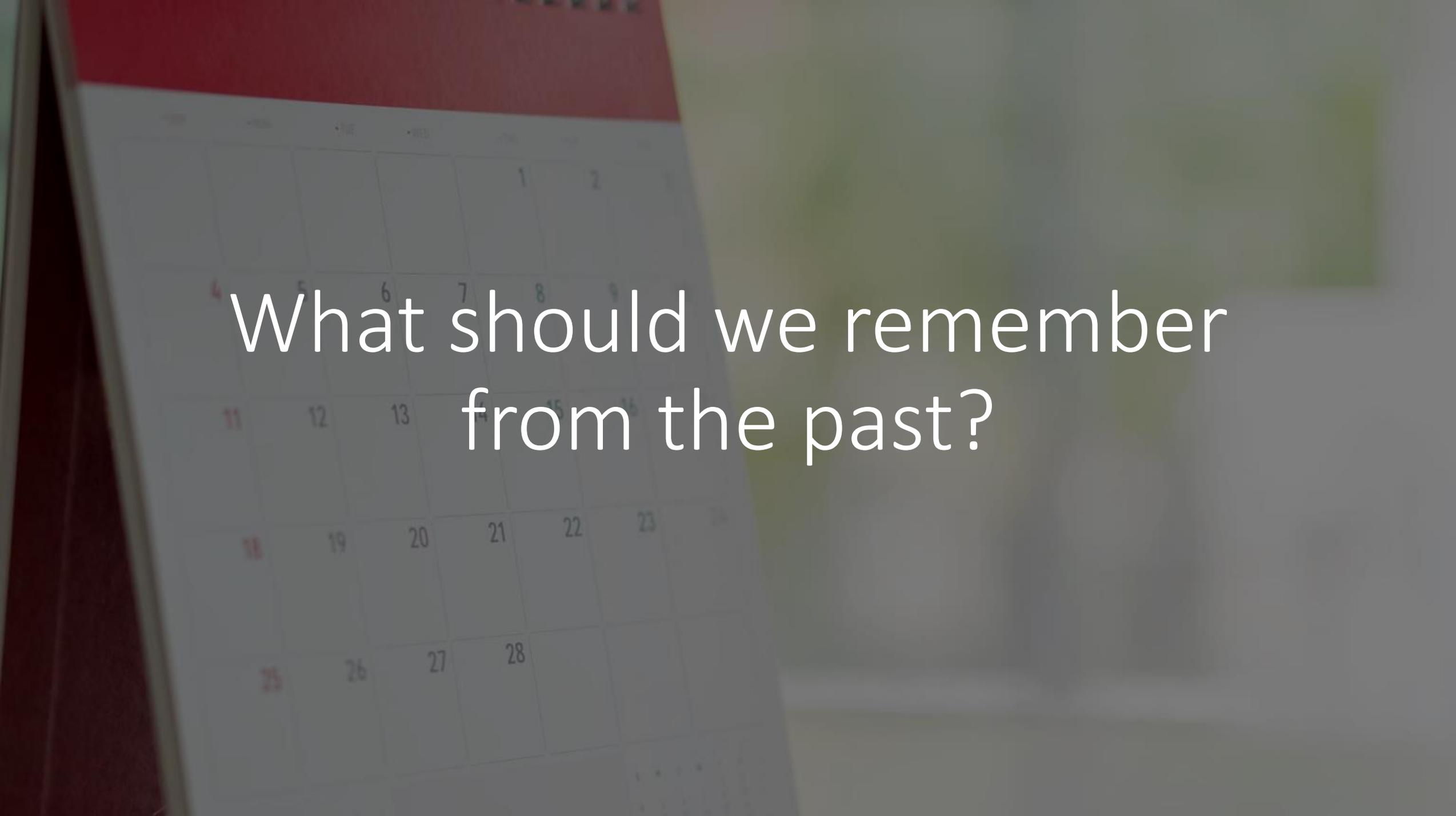


2. The Offenses of Others

- “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matt. 6:14-15)
- David with Saul
- “The Lord forbid me, that I should do this to my lord, for he is the anointed of the Lord.” (1 Sam. 24:7)

3. Labors of love

- “So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’” (Lk. 17:10)
- Forgetting our labors protect us from:
- Pride
 - EX: Parable of the Tax Collector and Pharisee
 - The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ (Lk. 18:11-12)
- Self-Pity
- Seeking Praise



What should we remember
from the past?

1. Lessons Learned

—

1. Personal weakness
2. The value of spending more time at home
3. Value of Authentic relationships
4. The value of the Eucharist
5. How to surrender to God and the circumstance

2. God's mercy

- His forgiveness and acceptance
- His gifts He give us
- EX: St. Paul
- “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am...”
(1 Cor. 15:9-10)





When we
remember
the mercies
of God...

- Are comforted
 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” (2 Cor. 1:3-4)
- Sacrifice
 - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” (Rom. 12:1)



3. His Warnings



- Some are clear and well understood
- Some are a result of the seeds we sowed
- God warnings remind us of the end of sin
 - EX: The Story of Lot's Wife
 - EX: Noah's Ark and the Flood
 - EX: Parable of the 10 Virgins

Application



Set clear goals

Achievable
Start small
Seek guidance



Expect Obstacles



Be Determined

Courage
Conviction
Consistency



Happy NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11