

Finding the Way Back to Mayberry Episode # 82, "Class Reunion"

Introduction:

Andy and Barney are excited about seeing old friends and their high school sweethearts at the Mayberry "Class of 1945" Reunion. Barney is disappointed when his old flame hardly recognizes him, but Andy and Sharon seem to be starting right where they left off. However, they soon realize their lifestyles are very different, and so they part again – saddened, yet more satisfied with their life choices.

Lesson Points:

Memories of the Past – 1 Thessalonians 3:6-7, 2 Peter 1:12-21

Are they special? – Deuteronomy 32:7

Are they painful? – Proverbs 10:7, John 14:27

Do we chase them or let them go? – Isaiah 43:18-19, Psalm 34:4

Dreams of the Future – Job 33:14-18, Psalm 37:37-38,

Deuteronomy 13:1-3

What should we learn from the past and present? – Psalm 34:11-22

What should our future hold for us? – Philippians 4:4-7,

Ecclesiastes 8:2-8

What we want really isn't important - Philippians 4:12-13,

Isaiah 26:3-4

Contentment in the Present – Philippians 4:8-9, 1 Timothy 6:6-10

What is contentment and happiness for you? – Ecclesiastes 3:9-14,

Proverbs 16:8

If not happy, what are you doing about it? – Psalm 90:12, Psalm 85:8

What we need will be provided – Psalm 119:165, Hebrews 13:5

Discussion:

1) Explain why Barney kept his father's rock. Why were all those other memories so important to Barney? What are your favorite memories? Do you keep items of sentimental value that might seem silly to others? How important are "belongings" and "things" to you? What is one thing that truly lasts forever?

2) How did Andy and Barney remember and reflect upon their high school days? How did Barney remember his relationship with Ramona Wiley? Why didn't she remember Barney? Do you think Ramona really wrote that note Barney remembered? Or was it a prank played by a mischievous classmate or simply Barney's imagination? Why did the story about "Philomathian" Jack Egbert bring back old wounds?

3) Everyone seemed to think Sharon Despain and Andy had rekindled their high school romance. How *did* they feel about each other? Why couldn't they make it work back at graduation? Did they regret choices they made in high school? Since high school? At the class reunion? What would Andy have been like if he had gone to Philadelphia or Chicago with Sharon? What would Sharon have been like if she had stayed in Mayberry? Were you sad to find that Sharon and Andy could only be friends? Why?

4) Why did Andy and Sharon have difficulty, at first, in remembering much about their argument on graduation night? How did they feel when they realized the truth all over again? What made Sharon happy in Chicago? What made Andy happy in Mayberry? If both of them had not been successful and happy in their life choices, how might they have felt at the night of the reunion? *How is it possible that things that once made us laugh can now make us cry, and things that made us cry can now make us laugh?*

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1 Thessalonians 3:6-7

6 But now Timothy has come to us from you and brought us good news about your faith and love and reported that you always have good memories of us, wanting to see us, as we also want to see you. 7 Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution, we were encouraged about you through your faith.

2 Peter 1:12-15

12 Therefore I will always remind you about these things, even though you know them and are established in the truth you have. 13 I consider it right, as long as I am in this bodily tent, to wake you up with a reminder, 14 knowing that I will soon lay aside my tent, as our Lord Jesus Christ has also shown me. 15 And I will also make every effort that you may be able to recall these things at any time after my departure.

Deuteronomy 32:7

7 Remember the days of old; consider the years long past. Ask your father, and he will tell you, your elders, and they will teach you.

Proverbs 10:7

7 The remembrance of the righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot.

John 14:27

27 Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Your heart must not be troubled or fearful.

Isaiah 43:18-19

18 Do not remember the past events, pay no attention to things of old. 19 Look, I am about to do something new; even now it is coming. Do you not see it? Indeed, I will make a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.

Psalm 34:4

4 I sought the Lord, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

Job 33:14-18

14 For God speaks time and again, but a person may not notice it. 15 In a dream, a vision in the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they slumber on their beds, 16 He uncovers their ears at that time and terrifies them[a] with warnings, 17 in order to turn a person from his actions and suppress his pride.

Psalm 37:37-38

37 Watch the blameless and observe the upright, for the man of peace will have a future. 38 But transgressors will all be eliminated; the future of the wicked will be destroyed. 18 God spares his soul from the Pit, his life from crossing the river of death.

Deuteronomy 13:1-3

13 If a prophet or someone who has dreams arises among you and proclaims a sign or wonder to you, 2 and that sign or wonder he has promised you comes about, but he says, 'Let us follow other gods,' which you have not known, 'and let us worship them,' 3 do not listen to that prophet's words or to that dreamer. For the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul.

Psalm 34:11-22

11 Come, children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Philippians 4:4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

5) Is it painful for you to realize that everyone, including you, is getting older? How is the past part of the present? Of the future? What does it take for you to be happy and content? What are your dreams and goals? Have you settled for something short of that? What is God's plan for your life? Do we ever build facades to conceal the real truths of our lives? In each of us, do we hold a "secret pain" and a "secret peace"? What are the deepest longings of your heart? Can anything, *in this life*, fully satisfy them?

Final Thoughts:

Andy: Do the tears on your pillow bespeak the pain that's in your heart?

Barney: Yeah.

Andy: Me, too.

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Ecclesiastes 8:2-8

2 Keep the king's command because of your oath made before God. 3 Do not be in a hurry; leave his presence, and don't persist in a bad cause, since he will do whatever he wants. 4 For the king's word is authoritative, and who can say to him, "What are you doing?" 5 The one who keeps a command will not experience anything harmful, and a wise heart knows the right time and procedure. 6 For every activity there is a right time and procedure, even though man's troubles are heavy on him. 7 Yet no one knows what will happen because who can tell him what will happen? 8 No one has authority over the wind to restrain it, and there is no authority over the day of death; there is no furlough in battle, and wickedness will not allow those who practice it to escape.

Philippians 4:12-13

12 I know both how to have a little, and I know how to have a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. 13 I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Isaiah 26:3-4

3 You will keep the mind that is dependent on You in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You. 4 Trust in the Lord forever, because in Yah, the Lord, is an everlasting rock!

Philippians 4:8-9

8 Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is any praise—dwell on these things. 9 Do what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

1 Timothy 6:6-10

6 But godliness with contentment is a great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. 9 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root[c] of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

Ecclesiastes 3:9-14

9 What does the worker gain from his struggles? 10 I have seen the task that God has given people to keep them occupied. 11 He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also put eternity in their hearts, but man cannot discover the work God has done from beginning to end. 12 I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and enjoy the good life. 13 It is also the gift of God whenever anyone eats, drinks, and enjoys all his efforts. 14 I know that all God does will last forever; there is no adding to it or taking from it. God works so that people will be in awe of Him.

Proverbs 16:8

8 Better a little with righteousness than great income with injustice.

Psalms 90:12

12 Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.

Psalms 85:8

8 I will listen to what God will say; surely the Lord will declare peace to His people, His godly ones, and not let them go back to foolish ways.

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