

give today your attention

One of the most admired women of our time was Barbara Bush, the First Lady of the United States from 1989 to 1993 as the wife of George H.W. Bush, who served as the 41st president of the United States.

Among her six children are George W. Bush, the 43rd president of the United States, and Jeb Bush, the 43rd governor of Florida. Mrs. Bush died on April 17, 2018, and her voice and example are truly missed. Her wisdom is contained in what she once said about the future, comparing it to a train ride:

We get on board that train at birth, and we want to cross the continent because we have in mind that somewhere out there is a station. We pass by sleepy little towns looking out the window of life's train, grain fields and silos, level grade crossings, buses full of people on the roads beside us. We pass by cities and factories, but we don't look at any of it because we want to get to the station.

This station changes for us during life. To begin with, for most of us, it's turning 18, getting out of high school. Then the station is that first promotion and then the station becomes getting the kids out of college, and then the station becomes retirement and then ... all too late we recognize the truth – that this side of that city whose building is God, there really isn't a station. The joy is in the journey and the journey is the joy.



Sooner or later, you realize there is no station and the truth of life is the trip. Read a book, eat more ice cream, go barefoot more often, hug a child, go fishing, laugh more. The station will come soon enough. And as you go, find a way to make this world more beautiful.

Barbara Bush's perspective is one we should consider seriously. Planning ahead is wise, but focusing on the destination while ignoring the beauty of the world God created and the love that arises from relationships is not a good idea.

Tomorrow may come; it may not. The only place we really have any power is in the present.

Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself (Matthew 6:34 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter