Morgan Stanley

The David Miller Group at Morgan Stanley May 23, 2025

The sharp stock market correction in early April was both swift and severe. Morningstar called it the "biggest 2-day wipeout in history¹", reporting that over \$11 trillion in value had vanished since the Trump inauguration. Understandably, that kind of headline stoked fear.

Uncertainty around tariffs, paired with broader global instability, fueled anxiety and media sensationalism. Many pundits turned bearish and downgraded forecasts. Emotions spiked. Some investors headed for the exits, contributing to the market drop. But just as quickly, the market rebounded and erased its losses.

Investing Déjà Vu?

This pattern of sharp decline, emotional headlines, and sudden recovery feels familiar. It echoes the early days of the COVID-19 crash, albeit on a smaller scale.

Here's what's striking: in both cases, the market bounced back while uncertainty still lingered. In 2020, markets rallied even as global economies were locked down. Today, we still don't know how tariffs will unfold or how they'll impact corporate profits. Yet the market recovered regardless—without waiting for a more certain future.

No Guidance, No Problem

Adding to investor unease, several companies have stopped providing forward guidance due to tariff unpredictability. That spooked some investors into sitting on the sidelines. But is the absence of short-term forecasts really a problem for long-term investors?

We don't own businesses for their next quarter; we invest in their long-term profitability. U.S. companies have a history of adapting and thriving through challenges. A lack of short-term estimates shouldn't derail a sound investment strategy.

In fact, many successful investors practice strategic ignorance—choosing to ignore what doesn't matter.

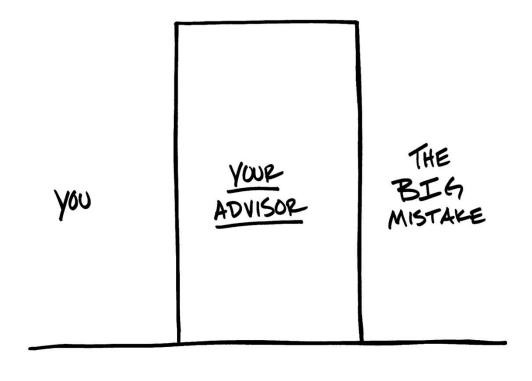
If at any time you're unsure whether a headline or data point is truly relevant, reach out. I'm always happy to provide perspective and ensure we're focusing on what matters most.

A Lesson Worth Repeating

If you had taken a vacation in early April and disconnected from headlines and market movements, you'd be in the same financial position as you are today, but likely with a lot less stress.

Markets go up and down. They always have, and we can expect they always will. To rise above the noise of the next "crisis," here are three reminders to help maintain perspective:

- 1. Market drops and recoveries often happen faster than expected.
- 2. Downturns almost always trigger fear-based forecasts—and most are wrong.
- 3. If you have concerns or questions, please reach out to me. I'm here to help you stay grounded, focused, and aligned with your plan.



BEHAVIOR GAP

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Forbes America's Best-in-State Wealth Advisors 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 Forbes America's Next Generation Wealth Advisors 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024 Five Star Wealth Manager 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

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2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisors

Source: Forbes.com (Awarded 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025). Data compiled by SHOOK Research LLC based 12-month time-period concluding in June of year prior to the issuance of the award. <a href="https://example.com/number-period-concluding-period-

2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 Forbes America's Top Next-Gen Wealth Advisors & Top Next-Gen Wealth Advisors Best-in-State (formerly referred to as Forbes America's Top Next-Gen Wealth Advisors, Forbes Top 1,000 Next-Gen Wealth Advisors, Forbes Top 500 Next Generation Wealth Advisors)

Source: Forbes.com (Awarded 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024). Data compiled by SHOOK Research LLC based on 12-month period concluding in Mar of the year the award was issued. Awards Disclosures

2015-2023 Five Star Wealth Manager Award

Source: fivestarprofessional.com (Awarded 2015-2024) These awards were determined through an evaluation process conducted by Five Star Professional, based on objective criteria, during the following periods:

2015 Award - 11/30/14 - 05/18/15

2016 Award - 11/30/15 - 05/18/16

2017 Award - 09/26/16 - 04/28/17 2018 Award - 10/24/17 - 05/21/18 2019 Award - 10/22/18 - 05/03/19 2020 Award - 10/27/19 - 04/24/20 2021 Award - 11/30/20 - 06/25/21 2022 Award - 12/31/21 - 06/10/22 2023 Award - 11/14/22 - 05/31/23 2024 Award - 10/10/23 - 04/30/24

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¹ https://www.morningstar.com/news/marketwatch/20250404446/us-stocks-see-biggest-2-day-wipeout-in-history-as-market-loses-11-trillion-since-inauguration-da