



New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

Sunday School - March 27, 2022

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Lesson Text: Deuteronomy 8:1-11

Lesson Theme: Remember to Remember

Introduction:

Memory is a terrible thing to waste. Do you struggle to remember God and His Word? Do you struggle to remember God and His Will. Do you struggle to remember God and His ways? These are probing and thought-provoking questions. Questions that ring like a warning siren alerting us to danger. The danger for Israel was of forgetting God and God's commandments.

How easy it is even for us today amidst the hustle and bustle of life, work, careers, deadlines, family obligations, appointments, life accomplishments, and so much more to forget God's faithfulness toward us and His instructions for our lives.

Historical Facts to Consider:

- ✚ God had delivered Israel from 400 years of bondage
- ✚ God had protected Israel from their enemies
- ✚ God had provided food and clothing for Israel in the wilderness for 40 years
- ✚ God had promised to give Israel a land that flowed with milk and honey
- ✚ God had promised to be Israel's God, if they would be His people

As we navigate the theological terrain of Deuteronomy 8:1-11, we will see that there is a divine imperative woven through this lesson that urges and admonishes Israel (God's chosen people) not to forget God or God's commandments. Consequently, this Old Testament lesson is relevant in today's times and particularly with the African American community of faith.

The apostle Paul wrote in Romans 15:4, "for whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."

These significant facts were to be central to Israel's love and loyalty to God's redemptive promise. God expected Israel to respond faithfully, thankfully, and reverently.

Devotional Reading: Deuteronomy 7:6-11

⁶ “For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, ¹⁰ and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face. ¹¹ You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today.

Textual Parallel:

As African Americans we have our own history with God. A history that takes us from our homeland, down the long dark road of slavery and segregation. An institution of racism, intentionally designed to devalue our humanity and demoralize our spirits. Yet God used our collective experience to build us. Through 400 years of oppression as a people of faith, God has carried us through. The only enslaved people to ever inhabit American soil. Builders of American infrastructure, fighters in unjust wars, seen as less than human, names changed, families divided, fathers lynched, mothers raped...and yet the story of our struggle reveals we've survived.

Deuteronomy 7:6-11 is foundational to Deuteronomy 8:1-11.

Moses gives the children of Israel a history lesson that was meant to do at least five things:

1. To encourage them to remember who they were, and that they were not great because of their own doing.
2. To remind them that God keeps His sworn oath.
3. To remind them that it was the Lord that brought them out of bondage
4. To know that the vengeance/wrath of God would repay those who hate him--or those who rejected his commandments.
5. It instructs them to keep the commandments of God. To not just know them but to apply them.

Why is this important? It's important because your beliefs about God will dictate your behavior towards God. Right thinking will generally lead to right actions.

Note: Failing to remember God and all that He had don't for them would have been self-destructive. These commandments are given as a pre-cursor to them going in and possessing the Promise Land. Moses was warning against spiritual apathy.

Question: What are some ways we may fall into spiritual apathy?

- Stop supporting the church
- Stop coming to worship
- Stop praying
- Stop reading our Bibles

The BIG What? What are we to glean from this lesson?

Answer: Deuteronomy 8 stands as a Spiritual Watchtower allowing the children of Israel and even us today an elevated platform to see the faithfulness of God amidst the dark backdrop of life. Seeing God from such an elevated position and perspective should encourage us to be humble, to remember all that God had done for us and to above all else keep His holy decrees.

Scripture Support: Leviticus 18:4

“You are to follow My judgments (precepts, ordinances) and keep My statutes and live by them. I am the Lord your God.”

Lesson Outline:

1. Remember the Humbling from God (Deut. 8:1-3)

- a. The command in the humbling - “Remember” Gk. Zakar, meaning to recall, or call to mind. The command is threefold:

Remember His Law (v.1)
Remember His Leading (v.2)
Remember His Lessons (v.2b-3).

The lessons were to show them that God was all they had. They were in the wilderness without food, shelter, protection, etc., and God kept them. He was teaching them the power of His Word. Everything they received was because of His Word. Their bellies were full, their clothes never wore out, their feet never blistered, their enemies never prevailed.

- b. The context in the humbling - “so that you may live, and multiply, and possess the land...” This was a promise God made to Abraham. A promise to multiply his seed, to prosper them and give them their own land.

Note: Moses presented them with the blessings and benefits of remembering the Lord. He knew that obedience to God ALWAYS pays off.

2. Remember the Habitat (Deuteronomy 8:4-7)

Note: In these four verses Moses reminds Israel of the provisions of God. Forty years the Lord had never ceased to watch over them. The wilderness was a harsh place. Yet the Lord provided for them and protected them. They had failed, faltered and been unfaithful but God remained FAITHFUL.

Key point: God remained faithful not because of them but in spite of them (He kept His Covenant with Abraham).

3. Remember the Hunger (Deuteronomy 8:8-11)

Note: He cautions them against the peril of prosperity. Its prosperity not poverty that is the great peril to not remembering the Lord. O that men would not forget the Lord when everything is going our way. Why? Because fortunes can, do and will change.

- the provisions were nurturing
- the provisions were numerous
- the provisions were noteworthy (praiseworthy)

Conclusion: As we enjoy the liberating grace of God let us never forget the responsibility to both celebrate God's faithfulness and remember His commandments.