

Don't Forget!

Purpose: to remind the church not to forget what God did for us in the wilderness, in order for us to receive all that God has promised to us.

Have you ever helped someone during a difficult moment, only to find that after awhile they had forgotten what you did for them?

- How did that make you feel?
- How do you think God feels when we do this to Him?

The children of Israel are on the verge of entering into all that God has promised to them and Moses is preparing them for this new season in their lives.

- He began by telling them to love God with their all.
- Now here is the second thing that he tells them: don't forget!

What did Moses tell them to remember about their wilderness journeys?

1. Remember that He led you, humbled you and tested you!

Deu 8:1 - "Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers.

Deu 8:2 - And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you *and* test you, to know what *was* in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

Deu 8:3 - So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

- How have you been led during your time in the wilderness?
- How have you been humbled during this time?
- How have you been tested?
- What have you discovered about yourself during covid?
- What have you hungered for during this time?

2. Remember that He provided for you!

Deu 8:4 - Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.

- What did God give you that you had not expected?
 - Grace?
 - Favour?
 - Finance?
 - Garments? – how have you been clothed or protected?

3. Remember that He disciplined you!

Deu 8:5 - You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you.

Deu 8:6 - "Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.

- Are there things that you have been challenged to change?
- Has God been speaking to you about your attitude?
- Have you felt alone? Perhaps He is teaching you to depend upon and look to Him more?

Not only did Moses tell them what to remember, he also told them where God wanted to bring them to:

Deu 8:7 - For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills;

Deu 8:8 - a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey;

Deu 8:9 - a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones *are* iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper.

- Brooks of water, fountains, springs – refreshment
- Wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil, honey – not just provision, but an abundance of good things for their enjoyment.
- No lack, iron, copper – useful materials for building and development.

When all of this comes to pass, don't forget the LORD:

Deu 8:10 - When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.

But what causes us to forget the LORD?

1. We forget the LORD when we fail to keep His commandments

Deu 8:11 - "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today,

2. We forget the LORD when we forget where we came from:

Deu 8:12 - lest—*when* you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell *in them*;

Deu 8:13 - and *when* your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied;

Deu 8:14 - when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

Deu 8:15 - who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, *in which* were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock;

Deu 8:16 - who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end—

3. We forget the LORD when we think that we have prospered through our own hands:

Deu 8:17 - then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.'

Deu 8:18 - "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.

Finally, what happens when we forget?

Deu 8:19 - Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.

Deu 8:20 - As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God.

So, don't forget that in our wilderness experience:

- He led us, humbled and tested us
- He provided for us and chastened us
- He wants to take us to a place of refreshment, abundance and development

And remember what happens when we do forget:

- We will not make it!