

## Sunday Morning Message

October 13, 2019 (Text previously preached on March 11, 2012)

### *Don't Forget Where You Came From*

Topic – Remembering and Thanksgiving

Text – Deuteronomy 26:1 - 11

Congregational Reading – Deuteronomy 26:5 - 9

*"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD." - (Psalm 40:1-3)*

*"And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." - (Jude 1:23)*

*"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." - (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)*

*"Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;" - (Deuteronomy 4:9)*

*"And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage." - (Deuteronomy 6:10-12)*

## Introduction

Go over the context of the passage.

## Transition

God wants us to spend a little bit of time reflecting on His goodness to us as well. In this passage there are three practices, which will help us to better appreciate the goodness of the Lord in our lives.

### I Remember (vs. 5 – 9)

A Where You Came From

Illustrate – my testimony

- B Where You Were Headed
- C Where You Are Headed Now
- D Who It Was That Delivered You

## II Return (v. 10)

*"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." - (1 Corinthians 6:20)*

*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." - (Matthew 6:33)*

Because we remember where we came from, and we recognize that God has changed the course of our lives, we want to return unto Him a portion of the blessing that He has given us.

He has given you eternal life in Heaven, and access to an abundant life here on the earth, therefore live that life for Him.

You owe Him some of your time.

You owe Him the use of your talents, gifts, and abilities.

You owe Him a portion of your treasure.

When we give back to the Lord, we are expressing in a tangible way our appreciation for what He has done for us.

*"Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." - (2 Corinthians 8:7-9)*

## III Rejoice (v. 11)

God loves to be a blessing to His children. Don't reject the blessings that God gives you. Learn to enjoy the good things that God has bestowed upon you.

Some Christians live bogged down with guilt over their sin. They feel that they must spend every waking moment doing some kind of penance to God, and that God is not pleased with them unless they are living a miserable life of servitude sacrifice. Happiness is something foreign to them. They associate enjoyment with sin.

Learn to take some time to enjoy the blessings of God.

Illustrate – A man tells the story of a rich industrialist who was disturbed to find a fisherman sitting lazily beside his boat. "Why aren't you out there fishing?" he asked.

"Because I've caught enough fish for today," said the fisherman. "Why don't you catch more fish than you need?" the rich man asked. "What would I do with them?"

"You could earn more money," came the impatient reply, "and buy a better boat so you could go deeper and catch more fish. You could purchase nylon nets, catch even more fish, and make more money. Soon you'd have a fleet of boats and be rich like me."

The fisherman asked, "Then what would I do?" "You could sit down and enjoy life," said the industrialist. "What do you think I'm doing now?" the fisherman replied as he looked placidly out to sea.

Work when its time to work, serve when its time to serve, give when it's time to give, but learn to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

Illustrate – My wife and I enjoy watching a few television shows together. There is nothing wrong with that. Not everything is wicked.

God has given you life – live it to the fullest.

God has given you possessions – use them, enjoy them – just remember where they came from and don't let them possess you.

God has given you some earthly pleasures – not sinful pleasures mind you – receive them with thanksgiving.

God has given you family and friends – enjoy them.

God has given you purpose in life – fulfill it – true joy really only comes through the fulfillment of God's purpose for your life anyway.

I think the best testimony for the Lord is a truly happy Christian.

## **Conclusion**

God told the Israelites, "When you get into the land, I am going to bless you abundantly, and when I do, I want you to do some things:

I want you to remember

Where you came from

Where you were headed

Where you are headed now

Who it was that delivered you

I want you to return to Me a portion of your time, talent, and treasure

I want you to rejoice – learn to enjoy the goodness of God.

So don't forget where you came from – and remember where you are going, Who it was that charted you on that course – but also learn to enjoy this journey called life.