



Introduction to Deuteronomy 8

Sunday, May 28, 2017
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Memorial Day is a fitting time in the yearly cycle of our national life to remind us of the important spiritual discipline of remembering all that God has done for us in Christ. Now, every Sunday ought to be a time of remembering Christ, but there are times that “stick out” in terms of making a mark on our memories. For instance, Christmas is a great time to focus on Christ’s birth or incarnation. At that time, we remember that He humbled Himself by forsaking the riches of heaven to take on human flesh with all its limitation and suffering. Passion Week, which begins with Palm Sunday, proceeds through Good Friday, and culminates on Resurrection Sunday (Easter), is a good reminder of all that Christ did in His sufferings, death, and resurrection. It just so happens, although we typically do not make much ado about it in our tradition, that May 28 was Ascension Sunday. Perhaps this would be a good time to be reminded that Jesus is no longer here but has ascended into heaven, which is to our advantage in the short term as He has sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in and among us as His people. It is also a great time to remember that He is going to return from that place one day to judge all people—the living and the dead—and usher in the New Heavens and the New Earth where there will be no more suffering. As Christians, these are all things to commemorate so that we don’t forget what God has done for us.

Context

Deuteronomy 8 follows a section in which Moses reiterates God’s unique love that He set on the people of Israel. He also reminds the Israelites that God is the One who did many great signs and wonders in Egypt to deliver them out of slavery and reminds them of the promise that God is the One who will cause them to inherit the land that He promised to their forefathers. But, as is noted in this chapter, after God has accomplished these great things on their behalf, they will be tempted to forget all that He has done for them.

Read and Reflect (*Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.*)

“Remember”

Read Deuteronomy 8:1-20

Forgetting

- Once knowing
- Absence of thought
- Why? Satisfied
- Why? Proud
- Why? Time

Forget what?

- The LORD our God
- He brought us out
- He led us through
- He gave us provisions
- Our total dependence

Remember

- Starts with regret
- Intentional thought
- Personal application
- Determination

Remember how?

- Daily: Bible prayer
- Weekly: Sunday
- Monthly: Communion
- Annually: Holidays
(holy days)

Discuss

- 1) What kinds of things do people commemorate (make a special time or event to remember) outside of the church? What do those events show about what we value as a culture?

- 2) In Deuteronomy, Moses tells the people to remember God's great act of salvation in the Exodus. As Christians, what is it about Christ that we are supposed to remember? And why are those things important to remember/not forget?

- 3) What does life typically look like when we forget God? How is it different from when we are actively remembering all that He has done for us in Christ?

- 4) How do the regular practices of gathering for corporate worship on Sundays and celebrating the Lord's Supper together each month help us not to forget what God has done for us in Christ?

- 5) How can we use our regular conversations with Christians to remind one another about all that God has done for us? How can we keep one another from forgetting the gospel?