

Remember God's Provision

Series: Remember

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Much of the Christian life is keeping in mind the truths we have learned and acting in harmony with them. When we forget essential truths of our faith we put ourselves and Christ's cause in harm's way. On January 6, 2021 some of our fellow-Americans forgot who they were, how democracy is supposed to work, and they forgot the rule of law. Regardless of how they came to be at the door and inside the halls of Congress, they should have stopped and remembered what was truly important.

Last week we talked about remembering to take care of ourselves spiritually so as to preserve our spiritual well-being. Today we want to call to our remembrance the promises God has made to supply our needs, to be our great provider. When we forget this we worry, we find illegitimate ways to get what we want and need, and we begin to believe that God is not good. All of these are destructive to our spiritual lives.

In Matthew 14:13-21, the story of the feeding of the 5000 is told. (relate) Then in Matt.15:29-39, the story of the feeding of the 4000 is told. (relate) Both events were experienced by the disciples of Jesus. Their bellies were filled with the bread and fish that Jesus created. Yet, listen to this story in Matt.16:5-12 (read).

*5 When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. 6 "Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." 7 They discussed this among themselves and said, "It is because we didn't bring any bread." 8 Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked, "You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? 9 Do you still not understand? **Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? 10 Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?** 11 How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." 12 Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.*

- Free Association leading to jumping to a conclusion. They heard "yeast" and concluded that Jesus said this because they didn't pack a lunch.
- They hadn't packed a lunch in Matt.14 or Matt.15, and they didn't go hungry.
- They failed to put these things together in their minds. Just as today, where do you think your food, water, air, and other material provisions come from?

Listen to how God addresses this in the Old Testament:

Deut.8:10-18, 10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. 11 Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. 12 Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, 13 and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, 14 then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 15 He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. 16 He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. **17 You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” 18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.**

As Paul wrote: “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.” (Phil.4:19)

Besides daily provision what else does God provide?

The Provision of the word of God **MUST NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED!**

John 15:20, **Remember what I told you:** ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

2 Thess.2:1-5, 1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, 2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. 3 Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God. **5 Don’t you remember** that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?

Jude : 17 But, dear friends, **remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold.** 18 They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” 19 These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

The Importance Of Remembering God’s Works

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It is important to learn to regularly remember what the Lord has done for us and His people. We are forgetful. And when we forget, we begin to **complain**. We begin to look at our life and feel that God is **not being fair**, or He is **not hearing** our prayers. This often leads **to pity** parties or **anger** toward God.

Forgetting the wonderful works of God in our lives can make **us feel entitled**, like we deserve His grace and mercy when, in fact, we deserve nothing. All is grace.

Forgetfulness can cause us to become **jealous of God's work in the lives of our sisters** when we should be rejoicing with them.

In remembering God's works in Scripture and our lives, we are strengthened in our faith. A strengthened faith results in **praise** that comes more easily and **prayers** that flow more readily. Ultimately, we are better **equipped to strengthen** the faith of others and glorify God in our remembering.