



WEEK 3

STUDY GUIDE

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APRIL 22-26, 2024

Monday, April 22, 2024

Read: Deuteronomy 8:2-3

Scripture Verse: *“And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.” Deuteronomy 8:2a*

Today’s Thought:

Throughout the Old Testament, God never tires of making an urgent appeal to his people to say, “Always remember.” This instruction of God to his people is not a mere remark in their minds, but God wants from them a deep reflection on his character, his power, his authority, and his covenant with them. God wants them to remember that it was he who gave birth to them as a nation. He wants them to remember that in the past, they were not a nation. He wants them to remember that they were slaves in Egypt and miraculously gained their freedom. They must remember how God intervened to make them a nation bearing his name among the pagans. (Acts 15:14). God wants his people to remember what he has done for them in the past to strengthen their relationship with them and help them understand that the God they serve is not the same as other nations. He asked them to remember his blessings in order to show their gratitude.

God wants them to get used to the concept of relying on his word rather than physical sustenance. By using the word “remember,” God wants to emphasize the importance of depending on his direction and obedience to his commandments in good times and bad. As God’s people, he wants them to understand the idea that true sustenance comes not only from material provisions but also from unconditional devotion to God’s will. In fact, God wants to teach them not to focus on time and circumstances, but on him alone, their good Father. Here are some of the splendors that God wanted them to remember: “He brought them out from among the Egyptians into bondage with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; he parted the Red Sea and brought them through it. He swept Pharaoh and his armies into the Red Sea; and led his people through the wilderness (Psalm 136:11-16). Along with what God did for the Israelites in the Old Testament, we can say that He continually reminds us to “remember.”

For all that God has done for us through his own Son, Jesus on the cross,

he has invited us to remember it. That being said, we must show him gratitude. Today should be a Memorial Day in our calendar; a day to remember God's goodness, faithfulness, love, compassion, generosity, selflessness, mercy, and forgiveness towards us. We were not God's people, but through Jesus we become God's children. We read: "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. Titus 2:11-14. Finally, God wants us to remember where He took us from, where He placed us, and who we are today.

Lord, thank you for your word. As you always remember me in good times and bad, all my desire is to remember your faithfulness, your kindness, your love and compassion, your forgiveness, and your selflessness. Help me show you gratitude for giving me your Son Jesus as my redeemer.

- What was God's reminder to his people?
- What does God mean by this reminder?
- What does God want them to remember?
- Along with what God called the Israelites to, what has God called us to today?
- What would be our attitude to this recall?

Further Reading: Psalms 136:11-16

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Read: Deuteronomy 8:2-3

Scripture Verse: *“And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.” Deuteronomy 8:2b*

Today’s Thought:

In the previous study, we saw that God emphasizes the importance of relying on him in all circumstances. God wanted to develop a father-son or father-daughter relationship with his people. God wanted them to let him know their needs instead of looking elsewhere for help.

In verse 2 of Deuteronomy 8, God wanted them to show gratitude to Him. He wanted them not to forget their history and he wanted them to know that they were a nation apart among nations. God wanted them to remember who they were as God’s people. He wanted them to know that relying on him is a necessity, an obligation to succeed in the land he is about to give them. All the experiences they have had in the desert are a way of building their character, giving them endurance and the ability to overcome the trials, persecutions and adversities that await them.

This reminds us of this verse from the New Testament: “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” Romans 8:18. God told them that they had many things ahead of them, but either way, they must know the importance of depending on God’s leading and obedience to his commandments. In verse 14 of Deuteronomy 8, Moses said to them, “I know your attitude before God. I know you have easily forgotten what God has done for you;” but “Be careful not to forget the LORD your God, by neglecting his commandments, his statutes and his decrees which I give you today.” Deuteronomy 8:11. This is God’s problem with the Israelites. They often forget what God has done for them. They forgot the power of God before Pharaoh. They forget him before the Red Sea and in the desert. They really had short memories. Moses reminded them of their obligation to God, who had delivered them at the Red Sea with his mighty hand and outstretched arm.

So, it’s the same for us today. This is the mistake we make every day. We easily forget what God has done for us in the past as we lament over

what is wrong in our lives. Instead of counting God's blessings, we prefer to look at circumstances, dwelling on our negative past and on what we would like to have, but which we do not have. Sometimes, instead of drawing closer to God in prayer, listening to his word and reading the Bible for greater strength and endurance, we prefer to flee from his presence.

However, in his love he continues to seek us through his Son Jesus. He often wanted to gather us together, like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and we didn't want to. Brothers and sisters, whatever heights you reach in life, always remember what Jesus did and endured for you on the cross. When you are about to become discouraged, always remember all the positive things that God has enabled you to accomplish in your life.

Heavenly Father, thank you so much for the many things you have accomplished in my life. Like the people of Israel, I don't know where I would be without your love. However, thanks to you, I am who I am. Help me to always remember to count all your blessings in my life, because remembering your blessings to me is proof of gratitude.

- What did God want the Israelites to do?
- How do you understand the Israelites' 40 years in the wilderness?
- What was the people of Israel's obligation to God?
- In relation to the Jewish people, how do we react to problems?
- What is God's attitude toward us?

Further Reading: Acts 17:30

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Read: Numbers 21:8-9

Scripture Verse: *“And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.” Deuteronomy 8:3a*

Today’s Thought:

We have just seen from the study above that God wanted a close relationship between himself and his people. He wanted them to consider him as their true Father and to know that there were no other gods before or after Him. He wanted them to lean on him in all circumstances. What does it mean to lean on God? In our daily relationship with our children, the way they rely on us is a good example of the concept of “leaning on God.” Our children are very familiar with the concept. When they are in great danger, when they need something that they see their parents can afford or not, they come to their parents and present their request. Even when they are not in dangerous situations, to express their peace and affection to their parents, they come to lean on these arms. This is exactly what God expected of his people. He wanted them to trust him completely through good times and bad. He wants them to build an active relationship with Him based on faith and total submission to him in all circumstances without questioning why.

Talking about relying on God implies an active relationship based on faith, prayer, and obedience to God. Thus, God wanted the people of Israel to continually submit their will to His to find comfort in his presence, regardless of life’s circumstances. By leaning on God, they will recognize his sovereignty and find strength, hope and peace amid life’s trials, tribulations, and adversity. This recommendation of God to his people still applies to us today. In Jesus, we are children of God, redeemed by his purifying blood. We read of our new identity through the blood of Jesus: “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”¹ Peter 2:9.

In fact, since we have this new life in Jesus, we must now learn to lean on Jesus for our present and for our tomorrow, in good times and in bad. We read in the book of Proverbs: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; submit to him in all your ways, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6. This is what

God expects of all his children: to completely abandon our lives to him until the end. He invites all who call Him Father to lean on Him, to recognize their limitations as human beings, and to find in him strength, comfort, and direction in complete submission to him. He asks all his children to entrust their lives to him, whatever the circumstances, the desert of life in which he finds himself. Indeed, thanks to him, they can find the endurance and the ability to overcome the trials, persecutions and adversities that await them.

Heavenly Father, thank you for your word. Through this study, I discovered that in Jesus, I am your child. Since I am your child, I must lean on you in good days and bad. Lord, I know that bad days are a part of this life. Anyway, as I lean on You, help me find strength, endurance, hope, joy, peace, and comfort in you for the rest of my life. In the name of Jesus. Amen!

- What did God want the people of Israel to do?
- What are our children doing?
- What does 1 Peter 2:9 say about us?
- What kind of relationship should we develop with God?
- What does God expect of us?

Further Reading: Psalms 55:22

Thursday, April 25, 2024

Read: Deuteronomy 8:2-3

Scripture Verse: *“And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.” Deuteronomy 8:3b*

Today’s Thought:

We have just seen that God wanted his people to lean on him in all circumstances, just as a child relies on his parents to give him everything he needs. Children have no worries about tomorrow because they know that their parents are responsible for everything. God wanted his people to depend on him for their daily needs. This was so true that in the desert, where they were deprived of everything, God had provided exceptional provisions for them. Therefore, God provided them with a kind of bread from Heaven which they called “manna”. We read: “The Lord said to Moses, “I will rain bread from heaven for you. People need to go out every day and gather enough for that day. This way I will test them and see if they will follow my instructions.” Exodus 16:4.

In this study, we will draw a parallel between the manna in the desert and Jesus Christ, emphasizing how the manna was the foreshadowing of Jesus, the true bread of life. According to Exodus 16:4, God gave them this bread in the desert as a test to see if they would follow his instructions. God wanted to show them that if they completely surrendered their lives to him, they would benefit more from him. This manna that they ate in the desert was just to satisfy their physical needs. The manna provided to the Israelites in the wilderness was a tangible provision from God for a very specific time to sustain them in their lives in journey to the promised land. We read: “The Israelites ate manna for forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate the manna until they reached the border of Canaan.” Exodus 16:35.

However, it also served as a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, who would come as the true bread of life, spiritual sustenance, and eternal food for all who believe in him. We read: “Jesus said to them, “Very truly I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father who gave you the true bread from heaven. God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” John 6:32-33. Jesus is the true manna that humanity needs for its soul.

The manna in the desert was temporary, ineffective in giving eternal life, and it was just for their physical needs, but their souls were still dry. The manna was reserved for the people of Israel, but Jesus is intended for the whole world, for all those who are thirsty and hungry. Jesus offered himself as the only true bread of life for all who spiritually hunger and thirst. We read about Jesus: "Then Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." John 6:35. Just as the Israelites relied on manna for physical sustenance, we must also rely on Jesus for our spiritual sustenance and eternal life. Jesus offers himself today to everyone saying: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." John 6:51.

Heavenly Father, thank you very much for giving me your Son Jesus as the true bread of life. Since I ate this bread, my heart has been satisfied, you have saturated my soul, and what's more, this bread has led me straight to eternal life. May I never run out of this bread.

- What did God have planned for the people of Israel in the desert?
- Why did God provide them with manna?
- For how many years did God provide them with manna?
- What does this manna foreshadow?
- What difference do you make between the manna of the Old Testament and that of the New Testament?
- Why did Jesus present himself as manna from heaven?
- What does this manna mean to you?

Further Reading: John 6:58

Friday, April 26, 2024

Read: Deuteronomy 8:2-3

Scripture Verse: *“And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.” Deuteronomy 8:3c*

Today's Thought:

Throughout our studies in Deuteronomy 8:2-3, we have seen that God's greatest problem with the people of Israel is not wanting to recognize him as their God and not learning to rely on Him instead of relying on one's own understanding or circumstances. For trying to bring the Israelites closer to him, through Moses his servant, he performed many miracles in their eyes as a just sign to show them that he is with them and that all they must do is to trust and rely on him in good times and bad. God wanted to develop a Father-son or Father-daughter relationship with them, but they preferred to flee the presence of God by acting in ways that would displease God.

God's plan is to gather them under his wings like a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but they refuse to follow God's voice. In fact, God used every means possible to bring them together. However, they continue to displease God with their evil deeds. Even so, God continues to demonstrate His sincere love for them by sending Jesus as the true bread of life so that every tribe, tongue, and nation that confesses his name may be saved.

As we said previously, the manna that God gave them in the desert foreshadowed Jesus as the bread of life offered to all humanity. In the last part of the verse in Deuteronomy 8:3 we read: “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.” The end of this verse is Jesus' typical response to Satan while fasting in the desert. Jesus answered: “It is written: “No man shall live by bread alone.” Luke 4:4. In the wilderness the Israelites complained about the bread; they cared about food for their physical bodies but did not care about their souls. The Lord taught them to balance the physical and the spiritual, because the human being is not only physical.

So, Jesus, in the desert, said the same thing to Satan who had come to deceive him. In this statement of Jesus to the devil, he wanted to teach

us the same lesson that God taught his people in the wilderness. Jesus wanted to emphasize the importance of spiritual nourishment alongside physical needs in the lives of Christians. Jesus' response to Satan teaches us to fly beyond material needs. He teaches us to submit to the will of God and to rely on him for our spiritual nourishment rather than for our mere material sustenance. Jesus wanted to teach us that worrying about material needs is vain, but that the main concern should be our soul, which is eternal. We should not be like the Israelites in the desert who complained about everything while God's presence was with them in the desert.

As children of God, we must rely on Jesus because God gave him to us as the bread of life. He who has Jesus has everything. In John 6:35, Jesus declares Himself to be the bread of life, that being said, our spiritual nourishment depends on him and him alone. Brothers and sisters, when you feel down, hopeless, worried, alone, abandoned, depressed and anxious, think of God's promises in this verse: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10. Isn't that a wonderful promise worth believing?

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us Jesus as living bread for our hungry souls. Lord, help me to balance my physical body and the spiritual part. Help me to rely on you the true living bread that comes from heaven.

- What was God's biggest problem with his people?
- What did God try to do to gather the Israelites around Him?
- What was God's ultimate provision for humanity?
- What did Jesus say to Satan in the desert?
- What does Jesus want to teach us today through this statement?
- What does God's word teach us about worry in Isaiah 41:10?

Further Reading: Matthew 6:25

Today is Friday. Saturday and Sunday are on the way. "Oh come, let us sing to the LORD. let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God." Psalms 95:1-3



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