

FBC Service Remembrance Day 2023 Deuteronomy 8:1-20 A Call to Remember

How fitting that each year, the 11th of November has been set aside and called Remembrance Day, and commemorated in services across the globe.

As memories of past conflicts fade, it becomes more apparent than ever to inspire our young with the spirit of remembrance.

The visible emotion shown on Remembrance Day by many, hopefully will provoke the curiosity of a generation for whom war is the most distant of evils.

For those without a direct personal link to the suffering of the past, Remembrance Day provides a bridge to our shared history, and for at least a few moments, turns our focus to remembering.

The ability to remember is one of the greatest gifts God has given us.

This morning we pay tribute to all our veteran's, and especially remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to serve our country and preserve our freedoms!

Surely of all the countries in the world we have been supremely blessed! And largely that's due to the men and women who laid down their lives on battlefields fighting for us.

I wonder how many unmarked graves there are of Canadian soldiers in jungles, or deserts, or forests, or in the water who are never recognized and honoured. Their graves are unmarked. No one preached a funeral service over them when they departed this world.

They may have been shot and thrown in a ditch and left to die, like my uncle Jimmy, who was miraculously saved by a passing motorcycle dispatch rider.

But God knows where every one of them is this morning! And we thank the Lord for all of them, whether marked or unmarked! And God will bring that body back to life one day in the future! He knows where every particle of that body is, and He will put it all together again!

Remembrance Day is a necessary challenge to remember what we were, what happened and what we should be. It's so easy to be forgetful. Even my wife, who has the best memory of anyone I know, forgets from time to time.

The problem is, we don't just forget the little insignificant things, we forget the big important things as well.

I'm not talking about our wedding anniversaries or birthdays! I'm talking about some significant spiritual things in our life.

In the text Janice read for us, Moses emphasizes to Israel, how important it is to remember.

He issues a clear challenge to remember the Lord and not forget. *"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."* Verse 11.

In what is known as part of Moses' farewell address to the people of Israel, God communicates a powerful, timely and relevant truth. It can be summed up in two simple words: **Remember Me**. And when you remember me,

Remember Where You've Been:

As I look back to remember where I've been, I've often thought about how different my life would have been if not for the Lord saving me at the age of 17. Where would I have ended up?

I was living the life of a young teenager, active in sports and rock n roll, with no thought of becoming what folks in Northern Ireland called, those "good living people."

But wonders of wonders, through the witness of a friend, the Lord opened my eyes to see the need of Him, and changed my life completely.

The Lord has kept me down through the years, and I pray my faith will not waver until He calls me home.

How has it been for you? Do you remember how the Lord intervened in your life? Is your faith still fresh and vibrant?

It's good to remember where you've been, and it's good to;

Remember Where You've Come From:

There's an old story of a man who rose from very humble beginnings to become the king's chief adviser. He was the most trusted person in the palace, yet rumours started circulating that he was plotting treason, for he was seen regularly entering alone into a tightly locked room.

Word of this reached the king's ears and the adviser was summoned to explain his actions.

He took the king to the locked room and they went inside. To the king's astonishment, the room was set up as a humble peasant's cottage.

"I come here, the king's adviser said, to remind myself of where I come from, so I don't get carried away with my own importance."

This story is of particular interest to me because it reminds me of one of the greatest failures in my life.

I've shared with you many times of my upbringing in a home which often lacked the necessities of life. When the Lord saved me, He blessed me beyond measure, and for a time, I looked down my nose at my brothers and sisters, full of my own self-importance.

I had forgotten where I came from.

I'm forever grateful, that the spirit of the Lord, showed me the error of my ways, and at my mother's 80th birthday party, I was able to ask forgiveness from my family.

Let's always remember as God's people, where we came from, and as God's people;

Remember Times of Testing:

Who among us has not experienced this from time to time. Job testified, *"he knows the way that I take, and when He has tried me, I will come forth as gold."*

Life is a school, and we often don't know what the lesson was until after the examination! If life is a school, then there are many tests along the way.

And sometimes we don't understand. But when you're going through a time of testing and you wonder where God is, remember the teacher is always quiet during the test.

The people of Israel were frequently hungry and thirsty and weary from the journey, and it was on those occasions that they became fretful and critical. **God says that those were times of testing.**

God tests us to bring out the best in us. Store those times of testing in your memory bank, and when a new time of testing comes, remember the ones that you came through, and the faithfulness of God.

As the old hymn says, "whatever my lot, He has taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul."

Remember Times of Teaching:

I'm sure every one of us has stories they could share about times of teaching their lives.

As you look back on your life, no doubt there are times of testing. **But there are also times of teaching.** Have you ever been in a class when you were tested on something that wasn't covered in the lessons?

God is a good teacher, and He will always teach you before He tests you. The question is, are we willing to learn?

Even in the midst of the testing, God was teaching Israel. The children of Israel had failed so many tests so God decided to put them in the remedial course. **You won't trust me? I'll make you trust me.**

Where does your food come from? From heaven itself. And you can't get more than you need; you have to come back every day for more. One way or another, they were going to learn to trust God!

As you remember times of teaching:

Remember Times of Trusting:

God tests us and teaches us so that we can learn to trust Him. Our text reminds Israel that even in the midst of His discipline, He was still providing for them and teaching them to trust.

He told them, you're in the wilderness because of your unbelief. But I'm going to make sure your clothes and shoes don't wear out. You've got food falling from the sky and I can get water out of a rock. Times of testing and teaching lead to times of trusting.

Sometimes we need to stop along life's road and remember how God directed us by His faithfulness, even though the road might have been winding and steep.

Here's how F.E. Marsh described what the Christian can see when he looks back:

Remember the deliverances the Lord has wrought (Deut. 5:15).

Remember the way He has led you (Deut. 8:2)

Remember the blessings He has bestowed on you (Deut. 32:7-12).

Remember the victories He has won for you (Deut. 11:2-7).

Remember the encouragements He has given you (Josh. 23:14).

Look back and remember the joy of victory, and the challenge of the climb.

Remember where you've been. Do you remember where you were when God found you? When His grace rescued you? When His love freed you? When His mercy pardoned you?

He lifted you out of the miry clay and set your feet upon a rock. He transformed you from death into life. He has redeemed you, adopted you, carried you. Can you look back over your life and see the faithfulness of God?

Remember Where You Are Now:

All though this passage from Deuteronomy 8, Israel is reminded to always remember and not forget the past, but also to remember where they are now because of all the Lord had done for them.

Too often we live in the dreams of the past or the dreams of the future and forget about the present.

Someone has said, "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift; that's why they call it the present."

Don't get so wrapped up in the past that you're no good in the present. I don't care if your past is painful or glorious, living there means you have no power in the present.

Remember where you are now. God has you here now, for a reason and a purpose. This moment is not an accident in God's grand design. God has you here, He has your family here, He has your church here for such a time as this. Finally,

Remember Where You're Going:

I don't know about you, but it does me good sometimes to remember that this world is not my home. I'm just passing through. Have you ever been travelling and stayed at a hotel, and you were grateful that you didn't have to be there long?

Golden motel in BC had to be the worst place Wyn and I ever stayed in. It was so bad, that we wanted to have t shirts printed "we survived Golden."

Look at this world and it's easy to become discouraged. But then I remember, this world is not my home. I'm just passing through. I'm a citizen of heaven, and Jesus has promised that where he is, there His people will be also.

Remember where you're going.

So this morning;

Remember Where You've Been:

Remember Where You've Come From:

Remember Times of Testing:

Remember Times of Teaching:

Remember Times of Trusting:

Remember Where You Are:

Remember Where You're Going:

On December 7, 1941, Japanese armed forces bombed the US Naval base in Pearl Harbour, Hawaii. President Roosevelt delivered a radio address that described the event as a "day that will live in infamy."

However, we remember a day 2,000 years ago that will forever stand as the most infamous day in the history of humanity.

On that day, the creature took steps to kill its Creator. On that day, mankind raised its rebellious fist against the Almighty. The day Jesus Christ was crucified is the most infamous day in the history of the world.

He comes to us today with open arms saying "Remember Me."

And in a few minutes, as a church body we will remember him with grateful hearts around the table of Communion.

"Remember this day".