

Friday, May 11, 2018

## Remember

Deuteronomy 16-17

*"... so that all the days of your life you may remember the time of your departure from Egypt."*

Deuteronomy 16:3b

As Moses tells this next generation about God's laws, and reviews for them the truths that God has spoken to him, he reminds them of the Passover, among other things. I think of how the Passover has carried such significance in the Jewish community for so long. I consider that it is still observed today—every year—on the anniversary of the liberation from Egypt. It is a constant reminder that they were set free from captivity by God. He set them free miraculously. In the process, he gave them a tangible reminder that has helped them remember for 3500 years!! I think that is amazing. Moses challenges them to remember the time of their departure so that they will remember that it was God's hand that brought them out of their captivity. Each year celebrates this. Jesus took the bread and the cup of the Passover and, on the night of the Last Supper, He spoke of the New Covenant in His blood, the covenant promised, whereby God would set me—and all who will believe—free. When I take communion, I remember that Jesus died to set me free. I remember the time of my departure, the time when the Holy Spirit reached into my heart and brought me to life—new life in Christ. I am no longer held in bondage in my sin debt, shame, and guilt. I have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. Hallelujah. God saves.

*Dear LORD, thank You for reminding me so often of my departure from captivity. Amen.*

Saturday, May 12, 2018

## Blameless

Deuteronomy 18-19

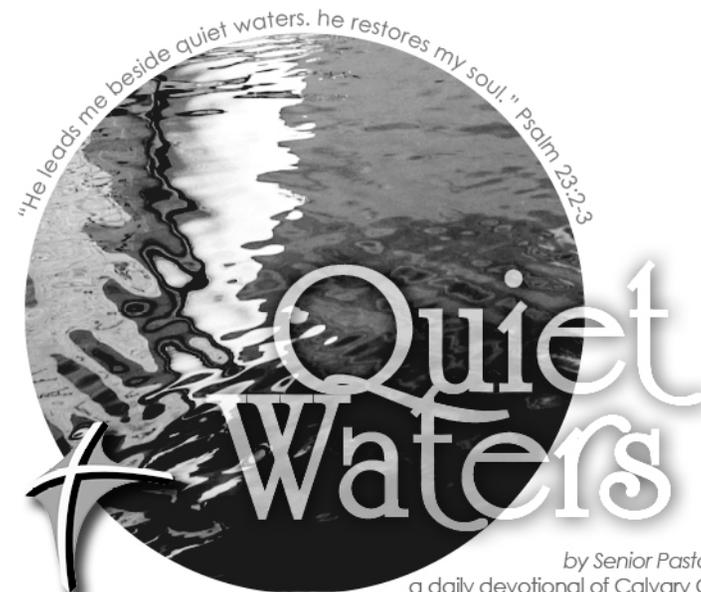
*"Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the LORD your God."*

Deuteronomy 18:12-13

God continues to warn His children about the need to stay pure in the land they are entering. In many ways, God is using His people to bring about justice. The people of the land they are entering have been judged and are to be destroyed by God and He will use the Israelites to mete out His judgment (19:1). The practices of the people in the land are detestable, and yet God knows they will be attractive—sin is. Even sacrificing children in the fire will be tempting to His nation as they enter this land of despicable practices. God warns them to be pure, to stay pure, and to live according to the laws He has given them to protect them and to resist the things that will bring the judgment that is coming against the people in the land they are entering. They must be blameless. I need to see this in my life. Sin is detestable to God—any and all sin. And people who do these things are detestable to God. That is such an overwhelming thought. I need to keep myself blameless before God by purging myself of anything in my life that is detestable to Him and then making sure that I do not allow myself to fall into situations that would tempt me to fall into detestable practices—sin of any kind!

*Lord, sometimes I am overwhelmed by the many practices in my life that are detestable to You, and many other times I am simply unaware. Thank You that in Christ I stand before You blameless. Help me have my actions match my position. Amen.*

May 7 - 12, 2018



by Senior Pastor Chuck Cervenka  
a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, May 7, 2018

### Every word

Deuteronomy 8-9

*“He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.”*

Deuteronomy 8:3

Moses is telling these people over and over not to forget the LORD and all that He has done and all that He promises to do. He is telling them the very things that God had told him. He is repeating and repeating and repeating, again and again and again. Over and over, he says, “remember.” Over and over, he says, “do not forget.” In the retelling of the account of the liberation from Egypt, there are multiple places to remember and not forget the provision of the LORD. He even made them hungry so that they would be humbled before Him. God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. The grace that He gave as they were humbled before Him was the truth of the teaching beyond the bread. He was not only meeting their immediate need, He was meeting their future need. Once humbled, they could hear Him speak. A proud person will resist the word of the LORD. A humble person will cling to every word that comes from the LORD, realizing it is the source of power and sufficiency to stand strong for Him. Of course, Jesus will use this verse to resist the devil. So can I. I must cling humbly to every word that comes from the Father.

*Father, help me cling to Your every word as my sufficiency and need. Amen.*

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

### Ask

Deuteronomy 10-11

*And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the LORD’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?*

Deuteronomy 10:12

What does God ask from Israel in response to His loving them as a treasured possession? Complete devotion. He could easily *make* them do these things. He could *force* Himself upon them. But He does not. He asks. He asks that they would choose that which is best for them over that which will hurt them. He asks them to love Him. He asks them to serve Him—with all their heart and soul, in other words, with everything they have, making every effort to align themselves with His word and His commands. God knows that these things are for the good of His treasured possession. So He presents them with the choice. I think of Adam walking with God in the garden as I read of God asking His people to walk in His ways. I read Micah 6:8, where God asks people to walk humbly with their God. To walk in the ways of the LORD is to walk with Him in humility, obedience, and love. It is to give my heart and soul over to serving Him and then serving others for Him. Really, when I think about it, God doesn’t ask all that much of me. He just asks that I love Him the way He loves me. Why is that so hard sometimes?

*Dear Father, how good You are to me, so loving and so kind. You ask so little and I respond with even less. I love You. You have won my heart. You have my soul. Amen.*

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

### Must not

Deuteronomy 12-13

*You must not worship the LORD your God in their way, because in worshiping their gods, they do all kinds of detestable things the LORD hates. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods.*

Deuteronomy 12:31

God is being very clear through Moses here. When they enter the new land, they will be tempted to worship God in the way that the people in the land worship false gods. They must be very careful not to do that because false worship involves detestable activity. God looks forward and sees that some will even burn their sons and daughters as sacrifices. God determines how He will be worshiped. He is making it clear to them, as He gives the Law, how He is to be worshiped and how sacrifices are to be made. He gives them details as to when and where as well. There is no ambiguity. Yet, given to themselves, the people will define for themselves how and when and where to worship God. It is no different for me. I must consider the ways that the culture has shaped how and when and where I feel I can worship God. How much is my worship shaped by my preferences and my thoughts as opposed to God’s heart? Do I see that some of these can be detestable practices? While I live in a period of grace because of the cross, it is not a period of license. My sacrifice to the Lord must come from a pure heart, worshiping Him in spirit and in truth.

*Dear God, please help me to keep my worship pure before You. May I not expect You to conform to my idea of worship and my preferences, but to consider Yours. Amen.*

Thursday, May 10, 2018

### Worship

Deuteronomy 14-15

*Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always.*

Deuteronomy 14:22-23

Even in the giving of the tithe, there was to be community and worship in the way that God designed. A tithe would have represented a tenth. So we see that there is really no way that a person could have eaten their full tenth. What that meant was that the tenth would be brought and there would be a celebration—a festival of sorts—and there would be great community and praise and recognition of the provision of God. There would be “leftovers” that would then be entrusted to the priests for the serving of the poor and the care of the tabernacle. The giving of the tithe was a time of great worship that carried with it a great sense of anticipation—not only of the joy of generous giving, but of the joy of fellowship as well. I can learn well from this how my heart should be shaped toward seeing my tithe given as a time of sweet worship to the LORD, anticipating the ways the abundance entrusted to me will be of benefit to the work of the LORD.

*O Lord, help me to set aside, with great anticipation, my tithe for You and to come ready to see how You will use my obedience to advance Your kingdom. Amen.*