

Don't Stop Now! – Deut 4:1-9

Read Deut 4:1-9

Israelites were about ready to occupy the land that God had provided
Moses spends better part of Deut recounting to them all that they learned in escaping
Egypt and wandering in the desert for 40 years
He's impressing on them that this is IT
You're on the right track; Doing the right things; Headed in the right direction
Whatever you do – Don't stop now!

We haven't been wandering – homeless yes, but not wandering
It's only been 2 years and 4 months
But I couldn't help thinking of our situation when I read this passage recently

Just like they were about ready to enter a great land
We're about ready to enter a great building
But now is not the time for us to relax; To change course
Forget who we are or where we've been

Now is the time of all times to . . .

Remember everything

Moses wanted them to remember everything he had taught them (1)
And everything God had done (9)
Even the punishment for worshipping idols (3)
Baal of Peor – Canaanite fertility god; worshipped with sexual acts
Not a casual following . . .
Ps 106:28 – *They yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor*
Hos 9:10 – *They consecrated themselves to that shameful idol and became as vile as the thing they loved.*
Moses wanted them to remember everything – good, bad, and ugly – why?
Because *forgetting* leads to an ungrateful heart
Pride – we did it ourselves
Worry – if we forget that God took care of us in the past, we'll worry about the future

When Becky and I had been dating for 4 months . . .
Took her to airport; Back to CA
Guy she had seriously dated before meeting me was going to pick her up
He was coming back from a year in China, to live with one of her relatives and spend the summer with her
I gave her a card that said – Remember . . . Everything
Didn't want her to forget *us* when she stepped off the plane *there*, with *him*
Same token, I don't want *us* to forget *him* when we step into the building, over *there*

Don't forget . . .
Truths you've learned; How you've grown
How he's changed you; The things he's done in your life
How he's *used* you – to influence the lives of others
Don't ever forget that God is in the business of changing lives *permanently*, for his glory
And that he will often stop at nothing to do so

Don't ever forget where you've come from
The depths from which God rescued you
Talking to a guy, recently given life to the Lord; Asked him if he was committed to him
“Hey, Rob – I'm not going back to Egypt”
“I'm not going back to my old life”
Remembering your Egypt guards you fr the temptation of wanting to going back there

Don't ever forget the circumstances of buying our building
The \$1.6m given in 6 weeks by 625 people (including kids)
The favor we found with the bank to finance it
The rental situation with La James to make it possible
The parking available to use it
Don't ever forget all the miracles God lined up to make this happen

Don't ever forget the doors that God opened for us in this High School
Never forget calling Jimmy Casas; Traded messages
Eventually linked me with Mark Brooks
Hearing him say yes; Introducing me to Dave Dooley
I'll never forget the custodians who helped us; Teachers who tolerated us
If you're here (custodian, teacher, Jimmy, Dave) – please **stand**

Recognize Mark Brooks

I believe God put you in place for such a time as this
Prepared your heart years before we got here
Thank you for taking a risk on me
Willingness to work with us
All the ways you've helped us – many of which I don't even know
So that *you* don't forget all that God has done through you . . . **gift**

Remember everything, and . . .

Stay the course

Moses is like – just because you're entering the Promised Land doesn't mean you should start doing things differently
Stay the course – don't add/subtract from the Word (2)
Don't turn from the Lord (4)
Don't change a thing

Cross dedication last Friday morning
Newspaper was there
Reporter asked me what we were going to change now that in our building
In a nice way I basically said NOTHING
We're not going to change a thing

We're not going to change how we worship
We're not going to change what we preach
We're not going to change how we pray, or what we pray for
We're not going to stop sharing the Good News of Jesus with boldness
What we're about now, is what we're going to be about next week, month, year, decade
Until all dead and we've passed torch to next generation who's going to stay the course

Make no mistake – people are watching, just like they were then (6)
Either looking for a reason to dismiss us, or join us
Their decision will often turn on how we live our lives, and whether we stay the course
Don't stop now; Keep doing what you're doing; Stay the course

Pass it on

All that God has done in your life; All that you've learned – pass it on

Pass on . . .

How he saved you; How he got your attention; How you first believed

How he's used our church to instill in you a passion to know him more

Pass on . . . All that you've seen God do in the lives of others

Like the couple whose growth in Christ is off the charts

Or the single mom who's giving for the first time

New believers who are spreading the word like crazy

Broken marriages that are being healed and restored

Husband who's been going to church all his life, but recently accepted Christ last month

Revel in what God has done in the lives of others, and pass it on

Pass on a desire to bless others

Hear all the time how friendly/outgoing you guys are

Starts with a smile in the parking lot, at door, when greet, afterwards

Pass on a desire to bless others, not only here on Sundays, but throughout the week

Pass on a passion for Christ

People are going to walk in our doors who need to know . . .

That God still works miracles

That he still saves souls and changes lives

That he still loves them and wants a personal relationship with them, forever

Pass *that* on

Pass on a servant heart that works for Christ

There's a group of people who are the quiet, unsung heroes of our church

It's the Set-up and Tear-down teams – in here and out there

Arriving at 6, leaving at 1:30 or 2

Faithfully working for Christ, week in and week out

Take a few minutes – pass on some of what they do to make all this happen

Video

Stand if on that list

Passing on who we are, what we are, and how we are is only way crowd becomes a church

I have no desire to be a perpetually growing *crowd*

Group of loosely affiliated people just because we show up at the same place at the same time on Sundays

I have no desire for that, but . . .

I can hardly contain my desire to be a perpetually growing *church*

Group of like-minded, passionate people who want nothing more in life than to know and follow hard after God

If that describes you . . . Pass it on; Stay the course; Remember everything

Communion

Read 1 Cor 11:23-25 – *The Lord Jesus* . . .

Of all the things to remember – the cross is at the top

Of all the things to never change; Of all the things to pass on . . . the cross is it

If you've embraced Jesus as your Savior, if he is Lord of your life – this is for you

Examine your life for sin; Come clean; Participate

If haven't given your life to Christ

If Jesus is not Lord, let the bread and cup pass

Otherwise, by participating, you're saying something *outwardly* that is not true

inwardly – profane the body/blood of Christ

Treating something holy and sacred, as common

Risk bringing judgment on yourself

That's true whether you're a *believer* w/ un-confessed sin, or an *unbeliever* with un-confessed life

For the last time in this place . . .

Ushers are going to pass out elements – hang on to them

Spend some time remembering everything

Everything that Christ did on the cross

The bond we share because of it

When time comes – I'll lead us in taking the elements together

Pray

Bread – *This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.* (1 Cor 11:24)

Cup – Representing Christ's death and the salvation it guarantees . . Remember everything

Open Mic Prayer

Nov 7, 2004 we met in here as a Launch Team

Shared communion together in Dixie cups

Prayed together; Very sweet time

Feel very much like we're launching all over again

Don't have a clue what to expect

So having shared the Lord's Table together, I want to pray together . . .

• **Praise God for all he's done**

• **Pray for all he will do**

3 mics; Don't wait – line up; Keep your prayers brief so many can pray

Close

This is it; Take a good look; Thank God as you walk out; Get ready for next week