

Speaker: Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
Title: The Perils of Forgetfulness
Text: Deuteronomy 8:11-20

Introduction

- We can fail exams because we forget what we studied
- We can miss the plane, the bus or the train because we forget departure times
- We can be disobedient because we forget rules
- We can die because we forget warnings
- We can sin against God by forgetting

God Warns Us Not To Forget

“11 Beware that **you do not forget the LORD** your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, 12 lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; 13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; 14 when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; 15 who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; 16 who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end 17 then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’ 18 “And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. 19 Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. 20 As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God”
(Deuteronomy 8:11-20)

- Three things to remember:
 1. His commandments – that which keeps you safe
 2. His judgments – that which separates you from Him
 3. His statutes – that which causes you to be a testimony and a witness

“12 lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; 13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; 14 When your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage”
(Deuteronomy 8:12-14)

- What causes you to forget?
 - When you are full – the gratification of the flesh
 - When you have beautiful houses – leisure and comfort
 - When you are materially blessed – multiplication of possessions
 - When your hearts is lifted up – you become conceited and proud
- The danger of taking God’s glory

“Then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth” (Deuteronomy 8:17)

“I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images” (Isaiah 42:8)

What Did God Do For Them?

- Who brought you out of the land of Egypt and from the house of bondage?

“When your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage” (Deuteronomy 8: 14)

- Who led you in the great and terrible wilderness?

“Who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock” (Deuteronomy 8:15)

- A wilderness of fiery serpents and scorpions
 - when your opponents are stronger than you
 - when your circumstances are overwhelming
 - when your troubles are bigger than you can handle
- A wilderness without water - in need, lacking and not able to survive
 - Who brought you?

- Who fed you in the wilderness?

“Who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end” (Deuteronomy 8:16)

- Gave you manna?
- Gave you water out of the flinty rock?
- Brought you out of the land of bondage?

- Who gave you power to get wealth?

“And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day” (Deuteronomy 8:18)

Four miraculous acts of God on your behalf:

1. Who brought you out of the house of bondage in the land of Egypt
2. Who led you through that great and terrible wilderness
3. Who fed you in the wilderness with manna
4. Who gave you power to get wealth

The Dangers of Forgetting

“19 Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish” (Deuteronomy 8:19)

- You will follow other gods
- You will serve other gods
- You will worship other gods

Note the sequence

Forgetting makes you a hearer who forgets and does not do

The Results of Forgetting

- You perish

“As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God” (Deuteronomy 8:20)

- “They were idolaters, immoral, tempted God, complainers and critical”

“5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. 7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.” 8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; 9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; 10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Corinthians 10:5-11)

The situation arose in spite of God's promises

“7 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; 8 a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; 9 a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper. 10 When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you” (Deuteronomy 8:7-10)

Conclusion: The Blessings of Being a Doer and a Hearer

“8 Therefore you shall keep every commandment which I command you today, that you may be strong, and go in and possess the land which you cross over to possess, 9 and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD swore to give your fathers, to them and their descendants, ‘a land flowing with milk and honey’” (Deuteronomy 11:8, 9)

- You may be strong
- You may possess the land
- You may live long (prolong your days)

“1 Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God” (Deuteronomy 28:1, 2)

- God will set you high above – promotions comes from God
- Blessings shall come upon you and overtake you (press down & running over)

- The admonishment

“21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does” (James 1:21-25)

- Lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness
- We must receive the implanted Word with meekness or humility

- The humble will receive the Word
- To receive the Word, we must believe with our heart and confess with our mouth, we shall be saved

- o Be a doer of the Word and don't deceive yourself

“23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does” (James 1:23-25)

- A doer is one who does not forget – He follows; serves and worships God