

**JUDGES 5:3-5**  
**REMEMBER GOD!**

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Judges chapter 5 as we continue our study through the book of Judges.

We are currently in what is called the Song of Deborah and Barak. It is a song of praise unto God for the victory God had given them over Jabin, the King of the Canaanites.

In our first study of this song, we looked at, *“When Leaders Lead!”* And the idea here is to get people to follow you as you follow the Lord!

You see, a good leader is not going to get people to just follow them. In fact, that is a dangerous thing to do. And the reason being is that if they are not following the Lord, then, as you follow them, they will take you where they want you to go!

But if the Lord is leading them, and you follow them, then they will be taking you in the path of God. And we saw that with Barak as he got the people of Zebulun and Naphtali to follow him into battle, the direction that God was leading them!

And the bottom line is this. We are the body of Christ, Jesus is the head, and He is leading us. Thus, we need to follow His direction, work together for the betterment of the body of Christ, to minister to others.

When that is happening, when we are working together and not apart, things get done and God is glorified.

I have seen that here at Calvary and it truly blesses me. I see how people are looking out for each other, caring for each other, meeting the needs of each other, and in the end, God is glorified!

This morning, as we continue in our study of the Song of Deborah and Barak, we are going to be looking at the topic – ***“Remember God!”***

I know, it sounds kind of funny and even ridiculous, how in the world can we forget God?

The reality is, there are times in our daily lives that we do forget about God and then our witness of God is lost!

I don’t know about you, but as I get older, I tend to forget things. Some of you are laughing, just wait, you will get there!

Several weeks back Fred told me that as he gets older there are two things that he noticed as he is getting older. The first thing is that you do become more forgetful. The second was . . . wait, what was that second thing anyway!

For me, that hits too close to home. Let me share this story with you and then I will give you the outline of the verses we will be looking at this morning.

We are told,

A popular motivational speaker was entertaining his audience. He said: “The best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman who wasn’t my wife!”

The audience was in silence and shock.

The speaker added: “And that woman was my mother!”

Laughter and applause.

A week later, a top manager trained by the motivational speaker tried to crack this very effective joke at home during a small party.

He was a bit foggy after having a drink or two.

He said loudly, “The greatest years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman who was not my wife!”

The wife went red with shock and rage.

Standing there for 20 seconds trying to recall the second half of the joke, with the guests not saying a word, the manager finally blurted out “. . . and I can’t remember who she was!”

- Source Unknown

Remember the punch line or, look out!

As we will see, this is so important for us to learn, that we need to remember the Lord, keep Him in the front of our lives each and every day.

I have broken these verses here in Judges chapter 5 into two main points and they are as follows:

***LET THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW – JUDGES 5:3***

***REMEMBER AND SEE – JUDGES 5:4-5***

So with the remainder of our time this morning we will be looking at those two main points and see what we can glean from them and the things we can apply to our lives.

Let's pick up our study in Judges chapter 5, and we will start in verse 1 but our focus this morning will be Judges 5:3-5.

## **JUDGES 5**

### **VERSE 3**

Notice what is going on here. The enemy has had them in bondage for twenty years.

There was no way out of this situation on their own. The King, Jabin had 900 chariots of iron, and these were impressive war machines.

These chariots had a platform for a driver; a javelin thrower, and archer, and on the wheels of the chariot were blades so that as you got close to the chariot, your legs would be cut off!

And with these 900 chariots, they also had a very impressive army! The number of Jabin's standing army is given by Josephus (Ant. 5, 5, 1) as 300,000 footmen, 10,000 horsemen. Pretty impressive to say the least.

Now, when you look at these numbers, you can see why the children of Israel could not mount an assault against them and gain their freedom.

But now things have changed. It was not the children of Israel who would obtain this victory, but it was going to be the Lord working through them!

Listen to what we are told in Judges 4:6-7, **“Then she [Deborah] sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, ‘Has not the Lord God of Israel commanded, “Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun; and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon; and I will deliver him into your hand”?”**”

We see here that God had already given them the victory, all they needed to do was walk by faith! As they did, they would see how God would deliver them from the bondage that they were in, and He did!

Now, it is out of that that we read, **“Hear, O kings! Give ear, O princes! I, even I, will sing to the Lord; I will sing praise to the Lord God of Israel.”** Judges 5:3.

What is my point here?

Remember how we broke these verses down, and specifically this verse – ***LET THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW!***

You see, they repented before the Lord. God raised up a Judge by the name of Deborah, and God gave them this great victory. Now it was time for them to shout for joy and let the world know what God has done!

For us, it is our witness of the Lord and all that He has done in our lives.

Now here’s the thing. We can become so focused on self that we miss out on all that God has done and is doing in our lives.

God is constantly working in us and through us, but many times I don’t think we see it because we let other things get in our way or distract us from what God is doing!

Think about Barak. He did not want to go into battle without Deborah being there. And God said that because of this, his lack of faith, a woman would get the victory and not Barak. And that is exactly what happened, not only Deborah but Jael who killed the commander of the army, Sisera.

Now Barak could have complained, he could have been bitter, he could have been angry, even though it was his own fault.

But that is not what he did. What he did was truly amazing. He, along with Deborah, wrote this song of praise and thanksgiving unto God for the victory he had given them.

And this song was not just for Israel, it was not for those who were in the battle, it was for everyone to hear how great God is!

Years ago there was a song by Degarmo & Key called, *Let The Whole World Sing!* And this is how the lyrics went:

From the beginning You spoke the Word  
 And from creation Your song was heard  
 You taught the stars in the sky to sing  
 Almighty Father, let everything You've made  
 Give praises to Your holy name  
 Let everything on earth proclaim

Let the whole world sing  
 Sing Hallelujah to the King  
 Let the whole world sing  
 Lift up your voices  
 Let them ring, let them ring

The Angels came to announce His birth  
 A Savior born to redeem the earth  
 The sky was darkened when Jesus died  
 Creation watched as He sacrificed for me  
 And yet He rolled the stone away  
 Triumphant over death and grave . . .

All of my life I looked  
 For the reason You created me  
 I realized my life was given  
 Just to sing a song of praise to Thee . . .

Let the whole world sing  
 Sing Hallelujah to the King  
 Let the whole world sing  
 Lift up your voices  
 Let them ring, let them ring

- Degarmo & Key, Let the Whole World Sing (Album – Mission of Mercy)

Our lives should be singing praises unto God, maybe not audibly all the time, but by how we live out our faith!

Now there are a few reasons we should be living a life as a Christian with joy overflowing in our lives, with a song that bursts forth from our lives.

The first reason is that God is God, and He deserves our worship of Him.

Listen to what we are told in I Chronicles chapter 16 about our God and that He is worthy of our worship. We are told, **“For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised; He is also to be feared above all gods. . . . Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Give to the Lord glory and strength. Give to the Lord the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!”**

I Chronicles 16:25, 28-29.

Here we see David give the command you might say to praise the Lord and not just the Jewish people, but all the earth because there is no other God besides the Lord!

And we are to **“worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”** This does not simply mean to worship Him in a beautiful church. It means to worship Him in the beauty of His holiness; all that He is in His person.

Let me put this into perspective for you, because, the reality is, there is only one true God.

Listen to what Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Commentary has to say about this. We are told,

Some people object to Christianity's claim that its God is the one true God. But the Bible states emphatically that the Lord is above all other gods, which are idols (1 Chr. 16:23 –27). He alone deserves worship, for He is the Creator and Sustainer of life.

Most ancient cultures worshiped many gods, almost all of which were associated with nature. For example, the gods of the Canaanites were part of what was essentially a fertility cult designed to increase their harvests and the birth rate of their women. The Hebrews were virtually unique in their belief in one supreme God.

Today, too, people worship and serve a variety of gods, as well as a variety of often conflicting ideas about God. Meanwhile, the belief that there is one supreme God seems to be less and less popular, especially in an age that holds tolerance and religious pluralism to be among the highest of values. Yet God has not changed. He still invites - indeed, commands - all the families of the world to give Him the glory due His name (1 Chr. 16:28-30). Doing so need not be a statement of intolerance, simply a response to what is true.

- Radmacher, Earl D.; Allen, Ronald Barclay; House, H. Wayne:  
Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Commentary, 1 Ch 16:22-24

Make no mistake about it, there is only One true and living God and He deserves our worship of Him.



Another reason we should worship the Lord is because of all that He has done for us. Think about it for a minute.

We were dead in our trespasses and sins with no way out. We were headed for Hell and we could not escape that reality no matter how much we tried.

And then God stepped in as we are told in John 3:16-17, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”**

Here is the love of God for sinful man! God gave His only begotten Son to pay in full the penalty for our sins. Jesus freely laid down His life so that we might live!

Now, in knowing just that, what God has done for us, don't you think He deserves our praise and worship? Of course He does!

We are told in Hebrews 12:28, **“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”**

Instead of a life eternally separated from God, Jesus has set us free and we will be entering into the eternal state with God!

Again, when you look at what He has done for us, all that He has given to us, and we truly don't deserve it, we deserve death and separation from a holy and righteous God, but He has given to us life and thus, He deserves our worship!

Let me say this, because many Christians don't understand what worship is about. Many think that worship is what we do just on Sunday mornings or Thursday evenings. We sing some songs and that is worship!

No, that is not worship. It may be a part of worship, and I think it is as we sing unto the Lord, but there is much, much more to it than that!

And let me throw this out there because many times our worship is not worshipping God but entertaining the people.

The worship of God is not about you, it is about Him!

And worship is not about how we feel. I have heard people say, *“I didn’t like worship this morning”* or *“I can’t worship unless it is done professionally!”*

Here’s the thing. It is not that you can’t worship the Lord with just one singer with no instruments playing or maybe just a guitar playing, you won’t worship the Lord because worship, to you, is about you and if you don’t feel it, you can’t do it, or again, you won’t do it! That is totally wrong!

Here’s the thing. Worship is really about what we give, not what we receive.

Worship is bowing before our Creator, before God.

Worship is going to cost us something, our lives. Paul put it like this in Romans 12:1, **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”**

Do you see that our worship of God is more than just singing songs unto Him? I am not saying that is not what we are to do, we are. But it is much more than that.

It is placing our lives on the altar of sacrifice each and every day and saying, *“Lord, my life is yours, do with it as you please!”*

You see, that is worship, giving our lives to the Lord, the One who created us and saved us! It is showing that He is worthy to be praised and our lives will reflect that love, that adoration, that honoring of Him!

Listen to what the twenty-four elders, who represent the church, are doing before the Lord in Revelation chapter 4, and this is from the King James Version of the Bible.

We are told, **“The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ‘Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.’”** Revelation 4:10-11.

Make no mistake about it, heaven is a place of worship, the worship of the true and living God. And we were created for His good pleasure and He is worthy of our worship of Him!

In Psalm 29:1-2 we are told, **“Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”**

Therefore, our lives should reflect the love we have for God, it should be filled with the worship of God. And please, don't let that worship of God be limited to when we gather together as a body of believers, it should be manifested in our lives every single day!

And what is the outcome of living a life that is filled with the worship of God?

Listen again to our verse here in Judges 5:3, **“Hear, O kings! Give ear, O princes! I, even I, will sing to the Lord; I will sing praise to the Lord God of Israel.”**

In other words, as our lives are filled with the worship of God, as we praise the Lord in all that we do, people will take notice and they will see our love for God!

I guess you can say that our lives lived in the worship of God will be a witness of the God we love and serve!

Let me share this with you about worship and how it can be a witness of Jesus to those around us. We are told,

Ever since Willow Creek and Saddleback became “seeker-sensitive/seeker-driven” churches there has been a tension in the church community about whether worship is for believers or unbelievers. The answer is NEITHER. Worship is for God. However . . .

Both Old and New Testaments assume that when God’s people worship they witness. Paul summarizes it well in Romans 15:8ff.

There we see the call of God on His people to be worshipers *among* the Gentiles (unbelievers) so that the unbelievers will become worshipers. Our worship given to God becomes our witness to those who observe and see it. Paul will also say in 1 Corinthians that our worship should be understandable to unbelievers so they too will join in the worship.

The context of 1 Peter 2 brings clarity to our worship as witness also. V9 identifies us and gives our purpose, to “declare the praises of him who called you . . .” V12 then says, “they [pagans] see your good deeds and glorify God . . .” Unbelievers see our worship (often in the form of good lives) and they want to know God also.

So, all worship is witness. When those who don't yet know Jesus show up and share in our worship, they are "hearing" the witness of God's people. They are observing the object of our loyalty, affection and devotion. When they see our lives lived as acts of worship before God - in the marketplace - they observe the object of our loyalty, affection and devotion.

Many believers are intimidated to speak. But they do . . . they speak . . . through their worship. So, keep worshipping and keep witnessing.

- <http://bit.ly/2RkxQ3y>

We worship the Lord because He is God, the creator of all things.

We worship God because all that He has done in our lives, saved us and has given to us eternal life with Him.

We worship the Lord because not only is He worthy of our praise and worship, but our worship of God is a witness to others of what God has done in our lives, who He is!

If you go around and are complaining all the time. If you go around and are just gloom and doom. If you go around and there is no joy in your life. Then your worship and witness of God is off!

And if you are struggling in this area, I have a solution to that problem. And I think we all deal with this from time to time.

The solution is found in Ephesians 5:15-18. And I will share this with you and then I will share with you the results of applying this to your life.

Paul tells us, **“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.”**

Look at what Paul is telling us.

First of all, he wants us to pay attention as we are walking with the Lord. Be on guard. Be wise because this world is very wicked, and it will try to trip you up in your walk with the Lord.

Not only that, but we need to take advantage of the days we are living in. What do I mean by that? We are living in an evil period of time, in wicked days and they seem to be getting darker and darker.

Thus, redeem that time by shining brightly for Jesus. You see, as dark as things may be, as soon as you turn on the light, the darkness flees!

Thus, as we are paying attention in how we are walking, as we understand the days we are living in, we will be wise in our walk because we know what the will of God is in our lives, we will know what to do and what not to do!

And the key element, you might say to all of this is given to us in Ephesians 5:18, where Paul tells us, **“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.”**

Don't be filled up with the things of this world because that will do nothing for you except hurt you.

Instead, be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Now you may be thinking, “Hey, wait a minute. I thought once we are saved the Holy Spirit comes in us, so how can we be continually filled by the Holy Spirit?”

That is a great question and the answer is really simple.

Yes, once we are saved the Holy Spirit indwells us.

But there is also the Holy Spirit coming upon us to empower us to move the Gospel message forward and it is this empowering that we need to be filled with each and every day!

Remember in Acts chapter 4, as Peter and John are arrested for their faith by the Jewish religious leaders. And they ended up releasing them and telling them not to speak of Jesus anymore. And they said that they could not stop speaking about Jesus no matter what they said.

As they are released, they come back to the brethren and listen to what we are told in Acts 4:27-31, **“For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus.?’**  
**And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”**

They saw this persecution as what God had already warned them about, that the hand of God was upon their lives. And they did not pray for deliverance from the persecution, but for power to proclaim the Word of God to the people!

You see, they were already saved, they already had the Holy Spirit in them, but they needed the Holy Spirit to come upon them and empower them to move the Gospel message forward and that is what they were praying about!

It is as Jesus said in Acts 1:8, **“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**

As I have said, that is what they were praying for and that is exactly what we see happen, **“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”**

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke - not in tongues - but the Word of God. Never forget that the purpose of the empowering of the Spirit is not that we might speak in tongues or do goofy things. The purpose of the power of the Spirit is that we might be bold witnesses (Acts 1:8).

And that word **“boldness”** is PARRESIA in the Greek and it speaks of “telling it all.” They didn’t hold back!

And it is that power we need to live out the kind of life that God wants us to live. We can’t do it on our own.



And notice what happens here as Paul, in Ephesians, tells them that they need to be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit or empowered by the Holy Spirit. Paul goes on to say, **“speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.”** Ephesians 5:19-21.

In other words, a life that is empowered by the Spirit of God will be filled with songs of joy, hearts that are overflowing with the love of God, lives that are filled with giving thanks to God, and a life that is not only submitted to God but to one another in the fear of God!

Are you lacking that power? Maybe you are not sure if you are or not.

What can you do about it?

Let me share this with you and then you will see where I am going with this.

I have a battery powered weed wacker at home. And it does a great job when it is fully charged.

The problem comes when it loses power and then it is basically a device that has a plastic string hanging out of it. It can't do anything.

What is the answer to the problem?

It needs to be recharged!

And that is true in our own lives as well.

Look at what your life is filled with. Is it filled with the worship of God, a life that is given to God as a living sacrifice? A life that is filled with songs of joy? Is your heart overflowing with the love of God? Is your life filled with giving thanks to God? Is your life not only submitted to God but also to one another in the fear of God?

If it is not, then you need to come before God and “**... be filled with the Spirit.**” Or, be empowered by the Spirit to live that kind of a life that is filled with the worship of God! You need to be recharged, in a sense!

Paul also picks up on this in Philippians 4:4-7, where he tells us, “**Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**”

Who are we to rejoice in? The Lord and as we rejoice in the Lord, His love, His gentleness will be seen by others as we reach out to them!

And we don't have to be anxious for anything, but we can give it to God, lay it at His feet with thanksgiving. We can allow His peace to fill our hearts and minds.

And do you know how we can do this?

Yes, by being continually filled with the Holy Spirit, empowered by God. But also, Paul tells us what we need to focus upon because life is tough, things are dark, and it is easy to lose sight of what God is doing.

Thus, Paul goes on to tell us here in Philippians chapter 4, **“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”** Philippians 4:8-9.

In other words, focus on the things of God, focus on those things that will build you up and not tear you down. And as you do, that peace of God, that surpasses all understanding will be with us, guarding our thoughts and on emotions!

The point I am making is this. As we surrender to the Lord, as we are empowered by Him, as we focus on the things of God that will build us up, then our witness of God will be seen by others because we will be seen with the joy of the Lord, we will be seen worshiping the true and living God.

Now that does not mean they will rejoice as well, but we are a witness to them as we live out our faith!

**So – *LET THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW ABOUT GOD THROUGH YOUR WITNESS OF HIM!***

#### VERSES 4-5

In these verses we are going to focus on this topic – ***REMEMBER AND SEE!***

I have said this often, but it is important for us to understand if we want to have a correct perspective of things and have the confidence to walk by faith! We need to remember what God has done in the past to give us assurance in the present!

What Deborah and Barak do here in this song is they look back at the children of Israel receiving the Law on Mount Sinai, how God delivered them through their wilderness wanderings and the victories that He had given them in the past!

Let me show you what I mean, because it is the past deliverance of the children of Israel that Deborah and Barak use to strengthen them and cause them to praise the Lord for the victory that He gave them here.

Here are what a few commentators have to say about this.

Adam, Clarke put it like this, “When thou wentest out of Seir - Here is an allusion to the giving of the law, and the manifestation of God's power and glory at that time; and as this was the most signal display of his majesty and mercy in behalf of their forefathers, Deborah very properly begins her song with a commemoration of this transaction.”

Also, Thomas Coke wrote, “Lord, when thou wentest out of Seir— The argument of this ode is, the delivery of the people of Israel, by the assistance of God, from bondage; which the sacred writer briefly proposing at the beginning, and having summoned the kings and princes of the neighbouring nations to take note of so great an event, she enters upon the praises of God, not from the recent benefit, but from the miracles performed of old, at their departure out of Egypt.”

And lastly, Joseph Benson wrote, “Lord, when thou wentest out of Seir - Thus the prophetess, by a sudden apostrophe, addresses him, not as their present deliverer, but as the God who had formerly exerted his miraculous power to bring them into the promised land; leaving her hearers to recollect, that it was the same power which had now subdued the Canaanites, that at first expelled them; the same power which had now restored to the Israelites the free enjoyment of their country, that at first put them in possession of it. In other words, being to praise God for the present mercies, she takes her rise higher, and begins her song with the commemoration of the ancient deliverances afforded by God to his people; and the rather, because of the great resemblance this had to them, in the miraculous manner of them. Seir and Edom are the same place, and these two expressions mean the same thing, even God’s marching at the head of his people, from Seir or Edom, toward the land of Canaan. The earth trembled - God prepared the way for his people, and struck a dread into their enemies, by earthquakes, as well as by other terrible signs. The heavens dropped - That is, thou didst send storms and tempests, thunder and lightning, and other tokens of thy displeasure upon thine enemies. The books of Moses, indeed, do not mention any earthquake as happening during their march from Seir in Edom, to war against Sihon and Og, and take possession of their land; but it is highly probable, from what is repeatedly spoken of the terror occasioned by their march, and the universal fear that was spread round because of them, that it was attended with such commotions of nature. . . .”

And yet, in spite of all that God had done for them. In spite of the victories that God had given them. In spite of God providing for them. In spite of everything, they kept forgetting about God!

I know it is hard to believe, but it is true.

Think about it. God brought them out of the bondage that they were in in Egypt. He brought them to the Red Sea. And yes, the Egyptians were coming after them to take them back into captivity, but God said that He was going to bring them into the land of Canaan, not back into bondage.

And yet, what happened?

They forgot about God. They saw no way out of the situation they were in. They complained, they grumbled, they felt that they had it better in Egypt, in bondage than being in the situation that they were in now.

Again, they forgot about God!

And what did God do? He delivered them from the hands of the Egyptians, bringing the children of Israel through the Red Sea on dry ground, and then He closed up the Red Sea causing the water to come crashing down upon the Egyptians, killing all of them, even Pharaoh!

And Moses sings a song of praise and thanksgiving unto God, as the horse and the rider were thrown into the sea!

They remembered God only to forget about God once again. There is no water, there is no food, there is no meat, there is no this and there is no that.

And yes, God provided water for them in the desert. He provided Manna or bread from heaven for them to eat. And He even provided meat for them.

And they remembered God only to forget about God once again!

God brought them to the boarder of the Promise Land. They sent spies into the land to check it out. And ten of the twelve spies came back and said that they land was great but! And it was a big **“BUT!”**

You see, there were giants in the land. The cities were fortified. They were like grasshoppers to the Canaanites!

What happened? They forgot about God!

God had given them the land, all they had to do was walk by faith. But they let the circumstances cause them to complain, grumble, and not walk by faith but to remain in the wilderness.

But Joshua and Caleb, the other two spies, remembered the promises of God and they tried to encourage the nation to go into the land that God had given to them, the land of Canaan. But the children of Israel were determined not to go because they forgot about God and what He had promised them!

Now before we are too harsh on the children of Israel, what about us? Do we forget about God when we are in situations that we see no way out, that we see no hope in?

I am sure we have all been there and maybe some of you are there right now! In a sense, you have forgotten God, and because of that you are not willing to walk by faith, trusting in His promises to you!

Let me give you this perspective and the dangers of forgetting God. And yes, it can happen, and it does happen in our lives today just as it did with the children of Israel.

We are told,

We live in a funny age. Some people still have telephone landlines. But they mostly use them to call their cell phone because they have forgotten where they left it. And they need the cell phone, because it has an app that helps them find their car keys, for they have forgotten where they put their car keys. This kind of forgetfulness is largely due to being busy, distracted, and inattentive.

Though such forgetfulness is often a forgetfulness of things, it can easily become a forgetfulness of people. We forget that we were supposed to pick someone up because we got busy and distracted. We forget that we were supposed to meet someone for dinner because we were inattentive and didn't realize what time it was.

This kind of forgetfulness can also lead to a forgetfulness of God. We may sometimes find ourselves in the middle of a church service, where our attention is supposed to be on God and His Word, but instead we suddenly realize that we have been stewing over the argument that we had before church, and we haven't heard a thing the pastor has said.

I remember one time I fell particularly hard into this kind of forgetfulness. It was in an evening service, attended by a relatively small number of people. We had sung the opening hymn, and the pastor asked us to sit down and close our hymnals. Then he asked us about the content of the hymn we had just sung. No one could call it to mind. We had sung along on autopilot, forgetting where we were, what we were doing, and whom we were allegedly worshiping. We had, in fact, forgotten God.



As bad as that sort of forgetting God is, as sinful as it is, it often seems to us to be a small sin. Usually something happens to break us out of our forgetfulness, and we redirect our attention to God. However, this distracted, busy, inattentive forgetting can become chronic and more deeply sinful.

Moses, for example, warns the people of Israel, “Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life” (Deut. 4:9).

This is a warning against the kind of forgetfulness that characterized the children of Israel when they were in the wilderness. They had seen God’s great acts of judgment exercised against Egypt. They had experienced God’s great deliverance of them through the Red Sea. They had experienced God’s provision for them in the manna and the water from the rock. Yet, when they heard the report of the spies concerning the Land of Promise, they forgot all that they had seen, all that they had experienced. In the distress and fear of the moment, they forgot God.

God knew this tendency in the people. Moses had seen this tendency in the people. So he reminds them repeatedly in Deuteronomy (which is, after all, the collection of Moses’ final addresses to the people) to be careful not to forget all that God had done. The construction “be careful not to forget” sounds a little funny in English, but it is a way of emphasizing the importance of not forgetting. It is a way of reminding us that these things need our full attention, because our default mode is to forget. We forget birthdays, we forget anniversaries, we forget promises, and we forget God.

This kind of forgetting, what I would call careless forgetting, is bad. Even when it does not involve forgetting God, it can produce all sorts of evil in our families and our relationships. Thus, we must watch ourselves that we not forget the Lord and the things He has done for us. . . .

In the book of Deuteronomy, we read many warnings against forgetting God. In the book of Jeremiah, we learn that the people did not follow Moses' admonition. Instead, they forgot God and all the things He had done for Israel. And how had they forgotten God? By forgetting His commandments: "Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today" (Deut. 8:11).

As a result, their careless forgetting of God developed into a deliberate forgetting. They carelessly forgot that God was present and active (even if not visible) and stopped obeying His commands. They forgot the first and second commandments and made a god for themselves that they could see. They called it Yahweh, but it was an idol (see Ex. 32:1-5). As God put it to Jeremiah, "But my people have forgotten me; they make offerings to false gods" (Jer. 18:15a).

The deliberate forgetting of God developed into a trust in false gods, a worship of false gods "even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal" (23:27).

Israel's persistent forgetting of God, which led it into idolatry, brought them eventually into judgment. The Israelites forgot God initially through carelessness. They were distracted by the needs of the times. They were focused so much on the issues of the present that they neglected the foundational truths of the past. They disobeyed the commandments intended for their health and protection, and they forgot God.

Thus, when the idols of the peoples offered quick solutions to their needs, the Israelites, who had forgotten God carelessly, were only too ready to forget Him deliberately. They were willing to set aside the God who had saved them because the gods of the peoples seemed ready, willing, and able to help. . . .

But we, too, get distracted by the demands of our days, by the busyness of our times. We forget that as Moses warned that declining from the commandments of God displays a forgetting of God, the same applies to us. We tend to think that ignoring, or rather, not fully living up to one commandment of God is a small thing. But the result is not simply disobedience. It is the beginning of idolatry, of making a god in our own image, a god we can easily obey. But did Jesus not say, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments” (John 14:15)?

Yet, we find His commandments so easy to ignore. “Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you” (Eph. 4:32), Paul says, but we want to hold on to offenses and resentments. It feels good to bear a grudge. But that is not the way Christ teaches. To bear a grudge, to envy the gifts and graces of others, to covet the possessions of others - these are steps on the way to forgetting God.

We are not to neglect meeting together, “as is the habit of some,” but encourage one another (Heb. 10:25). But it is easier to neglect that meeting. Other things must be done; other things are more important.

I remember a fellow student when I was in graduate school. He was a New Testament specialist. But he did not go to church on Sunday. I once asked him why. He said that he had better things to do on a Sunday morning. I knew other students, mostly undergraduates, who were mostly diligent about attending Sunday morning services but not Sunday evening worship. The explanation? They had to study for Monday's classes.

These things are so easy to understand, so easy even to empathize with. Yet, it is the beginning of forgetting God. The demands of life pile up and it's all too easy to skip church. We need to love our neighbors as ourselves, but it's so inconvenient. It requires too much time, too much energy. So we don't. We give them a pat on the back and wish them well, but we don't provide what they need (see James 2:14-17).

Such is the beginning of the careless forgetting of God. But it doesn't stop there. It develops into an active resentment of those who would place demands on our time and commitments. And before we know it, we have forgotten God. Even worse, we have begun to follow other gods and have become committed to their ways.

- <http://bit.ly/2u607CI>

Take a good look at your life and remember what God has done. How He has saved you and is sanctifying you and you are becoming more and more like Jesus, that His nature is flowing from your life. And be thankful for what He has done and let that cause you to walk by faith and not by sight, trusting in the Lord each and every day as we place our lives on the altar of sacrifice unto the Lord!

May we be men and women who **REMEMBER GOD!** May we be men and women who **LET THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW ABOUT OUR GOD!** And may we be men and women who **REMEMBER AND SEE GOD** or that we look at what God has done in our lives to cause us to walk by faith in the days we are living in and shine brightly for Him!