

“Remember”

Exodus 12:1-28; 42-51; 13:1-3

(Preached at Trinity, April 15, 2007)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. After nine terrible plagues Pharaoh still refused to let Israel go. In **Chapter 11** God promises to send the deadliest plague – the death of all the firstborn of Egypt.
2. As we entered **Chapter 12** we find God ordaining the institution of the Passover. The Passover is the most excellent picture of the atonement.
 - A. Like the Egyptians, the Israelites were under a sentence of death. Although most of our attention has been upon the wickedness of the Egyptians Israel was not innocent. They were guilty of unbelief. They were guilty of idolatry.
 1. When God visited the homes of the Egyptians with death He visited the homes of the Israelites as well with the purpose of killing their sons.
 2. Had God not shown mercy death would have surely come upon the homes of the Israelites.
 - B. God provided a lamb
 1. God gave them careful instructions concerning the lamb
 - a. It had to be a perfect, pure and spotless
Exodus 12:5 – “Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take *it* out from the sheep, or from the goats:”
 - b. They brought it into their home for four days – they fed it, cared for it. They probably played with it. It would have become like a part of the family. The point is they identified with it. And then they killed it
 2. Jesus was our perfect, spotless Lamb
The perfection of Israel's lamb was physical. The perfection of Christ was moral – He was sinless
 3. The lamb was offered in the form of a substitute
God required the death of the lamb – the spilling of its blood. The first born did not have to die because the lamb took his place.
3. The Passover was to be celebrated annually for a remembrance of God's redeeming mercy.
 - A. God knows how prone we are to forget. There are continual warnings in Scripture
Deuteronomy 6:12 – “beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.”
Psalms 9:17 – “The wicked shall be turned into hell, *and* all the nations that forget God.”

- B. We are admonished frequently in Scripture to “Remember.”
- Numbers 15:38-40** – “Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: ³⁹ And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them. . .”
- Deuteronomy 9:7** – “Remember, and forget not, how thou provokedst the LORD thy God to wrath in the wilderness: from the day that thou didst depart out of the land of Egypt, until ye came unto this place, ye have been rebellious against the LORD.”
- 1 Chronicles 16:11-12** – “Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually. ¹² Remember his marvellous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;”
- Nehemiah 4:14** - . . .”Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, *which is great and terrible*. . .”
- Ecclesiastes 12:1** – “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth”
- Isaiah 46:9** – “Remember the former things of old: for I *am* God, and *there is none else*; I *am* God, and *there is none like me*,”
- C. Of all the things God wanted Israel to remember, the most important was their exodus from Egypt.
1. When the Law was given on Mt. Sinai this remembrance became the preface to God’s command. Israel was to forever remember God’s great mercy in their redemption and their perpetual duty to obey.

Exodus 20:2-3 – “I *am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³ Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”
 2. The Passover, celebrated annually was to be the means God chose to continually remind them of His mercy in their deliverance.

Exodus 12:14 – “And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.”

Exodus 12:17 – “And ye shall observe *the feast of unleavened bread*; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever.”

Exodus 12:24 – “And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons for ever.”
 3. Israel observed it first in Egypt and then continued to observe it during their 40 years in the wilderness. They were to continue its observance when they entered into the promised land

Exodus 12:25 – “And it shall come to pass, when ye be come to the land which the LORD will give you, according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service.”

4. As we saw in **Chapter 10** it was to be taught to their children in every generation.
Exodus 12:26-27 – “And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? ²⁷ That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD'S passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped.”
 4. Israel wasn't the only people prone to forget. It is a part of our fallen nature. We continually forget God's rich mercies upon our lives. Christ gave us a parallel to the Passover – the Christian Passover feast.
 It was given as an ordinance to God's New Covenant people.
Luke 22:20 – “. . . This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.”
 5. Tonight I want us to examine the Passover alongside the Lord's Supper and remember God's wondrous mercy.
- I. Israel was to remember God's deliverance
 - A. God provided Israel a lamb
 1. The lamb was taken into the home and for four days it lived among the family – the purpose being the family would identify with the lamb.
 2. The lamb was then killed and its blood applied to the door of the house
 3. When the angel of death came he would look upon the blood as a testimony that a life had been taken – the lamb was a substitute
 4. Each year as Israel celebrated the Passover it would be a continual reminder that God passed over Israel in His judgment.
 - B. God has also provided us a Lamb
 1. Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice – He became our substitute.
 - a. Because of our sin we are under the sentence of death. God's justice demands that all sin be judged and punished
 - b. Jesus bore our sins. He suffered the penalty due to our sins
 - c. Once and for all Jesus satisfied God's demand for justice
 2. The Lord's Supper provides for us a memorial of remembrance.
1 Corinthians 11:24-26 – “And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁵ After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of me. ²⁶ For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.”
 - C. Just as Israel identified with the lamb Christians identify with Christ
 1. Jesus described the necessity of partaking of Him
John 6:53-56 – “Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

- a. Jesus wasn't talking about transubstantiation – He was talking about our union with Him
- b. For Christians we are united to Christ – we have become one with Christ

Ephesians 5:30 – “For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.”

- 2. Paul often referred to it as being “In Christ”
 - Romans 8:1** – “*There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”
 - 1 Corinthians 1:30** – “But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:”
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17** – “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
- 3. We are partakers of His life, His death – His death became our death
- 4. Every time we partake of the Lord's Supper we remember our Lord's death and we remember our union with Him.
 - 1 Corinthians 11:26** – “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.”

II. The Passover was also a reminder of another issue – the people of God are to be a separate people

- A. Israel was to remove all leaven from their homes
 - 1. The regulations were very specific
 - Exodus 12:19** – “Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land.”
 - 2. The Jewish people have always understood leaven as a symbol of holiness. Unleavened bread is bread untouched by yeast.
 - 3. God's people are a peculiar people—a separate people. Unleavened bread was a symbol of casting out all that was impure.
 - a. It is an excellent symbol because of the way it grows affecting the whole loaf
 - b. To make bread they would always save a portion of the dough to be used in the next batch. The small piece of dough would soon have an effect upon the entire loaf.
 - c. Sin has such an affect upon the person. If left unchecked it soon grows and corrupts the entire life.
 - 4. God demanded that His people make a fresh start when they left Egypt. All of the idolatrous ways of Egypt had to be left behind – everything that might work its way into their lives to corrupt them. The unleavened bread symbolized this total break from the past.

5. If a person disregarded God's law and kept leaven in his home during the Feast of Unleavened Bread he would be cut off – he would cease being a part of God's covenant people
 "whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel"
 6. The Passover would be a continual reminder to Israel of their duty to remain pure before God—that being God's covenant people carried with it a high duty of faithfulness to God.
- B. God's New Covenant people are also a peculiar people
1. The New Testament also uses this Old Testament picture by making reference to leaven as that which corrupts
Galatians 5:7-9 – "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion *cometh* not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."
 2. Paul uses it in reference to the Lord's Table
1 Corinthians 10:21 – "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils."
1 Corinthians 5:6-8 – "Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth."
 3. The Lord's Supper must remind us of our full deliverance from sin
 - a. We have been delivered from the penalty of sin – we are no longer under condemnation.
 - b. We have also been delivered from the power of sin
 True salvation carries with it transforming power – we are given a new heart – a heart that desires to obey – a heart that hates sin
 - c. Jesus gave Himself that He might purify us a holy people
Ephesians 5:25-26 – "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."
Titus 2:14 – "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."
 4. When God saves us we are to make a clean break with the past. This is the nature of repentance.

Conclusion:

1. The Passover served as a continual reminder to Israel that they were a peculiar people – God’s holy people.
2. The Lord’s Supper reminds us of what Christ has done for us.
1 Corinthians 11:24-25 – “. . .Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁵ After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of me.”
3. When you come to the Lord’s Table do you remember? Do you remember that you have been saved from the condemnation of sin? But do you also remember that you have been saved from the power of sin? Do you demonstrate this reality in your life?
4. God has saved us to make us holy.
Ephesians 1:4 – “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:”
2 Timothy 1:9 – “Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling”
5. May God grant us grace to purge the leaven out of our own lives. Even a small sin will soon rise up to great defilement.
1 Thessalonians 5:22 – “Abstain from all appearance of evil.”
2 Timothy 2:22 – “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”