



REMEMBERING

Psalm 77

Sermon Based Small Groups

Sunday, June 1st, 2025

This week's Lesson

This week's lesson is based on the sermon from Memorial Day weekend, Sunday, May 25th, 2025, by Pastor Tim Brigham.

Purpose

The purpose of this week's lesson is to for us to remember that God has been, is, and always will be working in our lives for His glory and for our good.

Memory Verse for May

Matthew 13:23 – As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.

Monday Devotion – Introduction

Read Psalm 77 again.

Psalm 77 is written by Asaph under unknown but difficult circumstances.

One of the greatest fears people have is getting the diagnosis of dementia or Alzheimers. Of all the things we can lose in life the thing we fear losing the most is our memories.

“Amnesia produces apostasy!” JD Greear

Forgetfulness breeds Unfaithfulness!

What is the value of remembering? Failure to remember results in unfaithfulness, but remembering what Jesus Christ sacrificed for us motivates us to serve Him obediently and faithfully with hearts of gratitude.

We cannot obediently follow what we don't remember. We have the capability of remembering what we want to. Those things that are important to us tend to be remembered by us.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Memorize our monthly scripture. Practicing remembering Scripture is a powerful spiritual discipline based on scripture, "hiding God's Word in our hearts." The more we do this, the easier it gets. The reward is meditating on what we've memorized even when we don't have our Bible in front of us. For greater accountability, ask someone to be a memory verse partner with you and quote the scripture to one another to test yourselves.
2. Journal. Do you struggle to remember what God has done for you? What if you wrote it down and came back to look at it occasionally? As the old hymn says, "Count your blessings, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done." For a more modern version, listen to "Counting My Blessings" by Seph Schlueter on YouTube.

Tuesday Devotion – Point 1 – Leads to Revelation – vs. 3-5

The first thing that we note about this psalm is that its author, Asaph, was a very unhappy man. In verse two, he mentions the day of his trouble. In the same verse, he tells us that this trouble was so deep and serious that his soul refused to be comforted. In verse three he affirms that even the thought of God did not comfort him. He also describes himself as being 'overwhelmed' in that same verse.

Verse 4 adds even more dark strokes to his description. His trouble was such that he could find no respite in sleep, and he found himself to be incapable of even talking about it. Most of us find relief from sharing our troubles with others, but Asaph could not even do this.¹

¹Ellsworth, R. (2006). [*Opening up Psalms*](#) (p. 67). Day One Publications.

Remembering causes us to be thinking about what God has done in our lives, tying into what God is doing in our lives. Some important realizations:

- He is always at work, whether we see Him or not.
- He does not have to work the same way as He did before.
- He is not limited to working according to our prayer requests.
- If He never did anything more than He's already done, He would be worthy of our lifelong worship and surrender. We should never ask God, "What have You done for me lately?"

PROMPT: What do you realize about your thinking about God and the importance of remembering through the message and through the devotions so far this week? Take a few minutes and write down your thoughts. Ask God to reveal Himself and His truth to you through His Word and your recollection.

Wednesday Devotion – Point 2 – Leads to Repentance– Vs. 6

Why was Asaph so deeply disturbed? It all came about from his considering the past (v. 5). And what was there about the past that caused him to be so despondent? Was there some glaring failure there? Surprisingly enough, the past was good. It was a time in which he had enjoyed 'a song in the night' (v. 6).

This is puzzling. Why would a good past cause Asaph to be so exercised? And the answer is that it made him sharply conscious of how his present circumstances did not measure up. He could look at the past and see marvelous instances of God at work in his life and in the lives of those around him. But the present seemed to be utterly devoid of such instances. It was of such a nature that it appeared as if God had cast him off for ever (v. 7), had decided to be favorable no more (v. 7), had caused his mercy to cease forever (v. 8), had failed to keep what he had promised (v. 8), had forgotten to be

gracious (v. 9) and had, in anger, locked up all his tender mercies and thrown away the key (v. 9).²

Once the truth of what God has done has been revealed to us, it also reveals our heart attitudes and wrong actions that are going to require repentance. Even our anxiety, which is our attempt to control what cannot be controlled, is a lack of trust in God that requires confession and repentance.

Anger when we're in distress leads us to lash out at others. When we remember how we've wronged others, we need to confess and repent.

God wants us to remember that He has always taken care of us, He is the same God, and we can trust Him now to take care of us and to forgive us for our failures, just as He has done in the past.

ACTION STEP: Confess and repent as you remember. Don't just read about or talk about what other people need to do. Take personal action to be obedient.

Thursday Devotion – Point 3– Leads to Renewal – vs. 11-15, 20

The good news is that Asaph did not continue in his distress. In verse ten he turns the corner and begins to come out of his misery and woe. As he reflected on the past, he began to realize that he had been looking at it in the wrong way. Instead of letting past glory depress him, he should have been letting it bless him. The fact that God had worked mightily in the past meant there was hope for the future. The God of the past had not changed! He is the same God. No matter how great the darkness of present circumstances, it is not greater than God.

There are two phrases in this psalm that never fail to catch my eye. One is in verse thirteen and the other in verse nineteen. In the former, we are told that God's way is in the sanctuary. In the latter, we are told that his way is in the sea. We tend to want to track God through the sea. We want to know why he does this and why he doesn't do

² Ellsworth, R. (2006). *Opening up Psalms* (pp. 67–68). Day One Publications.

that. We should rather focus on seeking him in the sanctuary. In public worship, we can so meet God that we become satisfied with the fact that he is God. When we are satisfied with God as he is, we will find ourselves no longer troubled by what he does.³

Because of remembering, revelation, and repentance, the burden comes off and we experience renewal. Our worship is then heightened as we praise God for who He is, what He has done, and where He has brought us.

Do you desire to experience renewal? Are you willing to take the steps through remembrance, revelation, and repentance?

Friday Devotion – What Should We Remember?

Remember the Matrix of Liberty Monument

Faith - Trust and Surrender to God

The founders of America, from the early Pilgrims and Puritans who colonized many of the states through those men who gave us our American Christian Constitutional Republic, understood that the foundation of free nations rests in true religion. True religion is not where man is god, nor is it one of the many man-made (manufactured) religions. The statue of *Faith* points to the heavens, to the Creator of all things, and holds a Bible with the pages peeled open, which indicates that true faith emanates from the living Word of God as revealed in the Bible.

Morality - Building of character

To our forefathers, Christianity was the source of morality. A Christian people are a people with a transformed nature. Those who are redeemed through Christ are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17), having a new heart and new desires. Regenerated Christians no longer seek the temporary pleasures of sin, but they seek to please their loving Father and the great Creator.

³ Ellsworth, R. (2006). [*Opening up Psalms*](#) (p. 68). Day One Publications.

No longer do they desire to live according to their own selfishness, but they seek to obey His commands and live in accordance with His righteous standard. The nature of the redeemed person living under the New Covenant in Christ is reflected in the statue of *Morality* in that she has the Ten Commandments in her left hand and the scroll of revelation in her right, both being necessary to build a free nation. In the New Covenant, God's Word is written upon our hearts (Hebrews 8:10; Jeremiah 31:33). We are empowered from within to live in accordance with God's revealed Word as summarized by the Ten Commandments. In the niches in the base of *Morality's* throne are engravings of the *Evangelist* writing the Gospel and of *Prophecy*. This Gospel is first written within the heart, which will then flow out and affect all spheres of life.

Justice - Law and Mercy

When our Founding Fathers appealed to "the laws of nature and of nature's God" in the Declaration of Independence, they believed this to mean that God reveals His law (His truth) by general revelation in nature and the conscience of man (the laws of nature) and by special revelation in the Bible (the laws of nature's God). They believed God's law-word will provide justice to all members of society, because all people stand equal before His law. Yet, the Scriptures reveal that God is not only just, but He is also merciful. The two carved reliefs underneath the throne where *Law* is seated reflect this, as one represents *Justice* and the other *Mercy*. Our forefathers sought to administer civil justice while always having God's mercy in view.

Education - Discipleship - leading the next generations

The statue of *Education* is holding an open book of knowledge (the Bible) implying its truth must be passed to all. Flanking her throne are two carved reliefs; one is *Youth* (the object of the parents' instruction) and the other *Wisdom* (represented by a grandfather) pointing to the commands and an open Bible, with the world at his feet. The family, both parents and grandparents, were to teach the youth how the world works from a Biblical perspective. *Education* is wearing a wreath of victory, which is obtained when children are well-instructed in the Lord.

Liberty - preservation and protection of peace

The fruit of a people with Biblical faith, morality, law, and education is liberty. It is important that we understand the great liberty that God desires us to have. Lack of knowledge of the value and source of our liberty has caused many people today, including many Christians, to give up their liberty for a little security and care. Like Esau, we have traded our birthright for a bowl of pottage. The freedom our forefathers gave us can only be preserved if we are willing to defend it at all costs. The seated statue *Liberty* has a sword in his hand, prepared to protect the family and protect liberty. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty; and it is necessary to overcome *Tyranny* (depicted in one carved relief) and preserve *Peace* (depicted in another). Most Americans today have forgotten the source of, and price paid for our liberty. We have abandoned the principles necessary to live free. We have put aside the matrix of liberty presented to us in the Forefathers Monument. We have failed to acknowledge God Almighty as the giver of life and liberty. Consequently, we have begun to lose our liberty, our happiness, and all the fruit that comes from obeying the King of all nations. Let us cry out with our Founders for God to once again deliver us from a house of bondage.⁴

Saturday Devotion

Read Psalm 77 one more time and review this week's devotions as you consider the questions below:

- How does this passage change my heart?
- How does this passage change what I think?
- How does this passage change what I desire?
- How does this passage change what I do?
- How does this passage change the way I interact with others?
- How does this passage change my life to be more in line with God's purpose?

Use these questions in the future when you study God's Word to make sure you are responding appropriately in obedience, not just hearing the Word or just gaining knowledge.

⁴ <https://providencefoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Forefathers-Monument-a-Matrix-of-Liberty-art-w-pictures.pdf>

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SERMON BASED SMALL GROUPS

1. Use the sermon notes you have taken along with this handout to discuss the sermon with your family in your home as part of your daily devotions.
 - We would love to hear about conversations you have in your home around the table with your family – how is the Bible impacting your daily lives?
2. Use these resources to help you apply the sermon in your daily life, at work, school, home, at Walmart and Waffle House, etc. Remember, sermons aren't events to be attended. The Word is not for information; it is for transformation. The sermon is meant to be obeyed.
 - Talk with your family about how to successfully apply the sermon in your daily life. Look for "teachable moments" when real life events happen and discuss how we should react and respond according to Scripture.
 - When you are successful at applying Scripture in a real-life situation, share it with one another.
3. Use these resources and your daily experiences with your small group the following week; discuss what God showed you through applying the sermon; discuss how you have grown, and areas you are struggling and want the small group to pray for you in and hold you accountable.
 - Be a confidant for your fellow class members. Don't ever let a matter of prayer become a morsel of gossip. Be trustworthy and watch how God uses your integrity and faithfulness as a group to help you grow closer to Him and to one another.