TITLE: REMEMBERING

TEXT: Psalm 105:1-5; 77:7-15; Jere. 2:32; Romans 5:8; John 3:16

INTRODUCTION: Today I want to talk about the importance of remembering.

Remembering is a very important thing.

If you are married you know what I mean…

When it comes time for your anniversary or your spouse’s birthday or your Childs birthday, tell me that remembering isn't important!

Our capacity to remember is really a pretty amazing thing when you think about it,

How many of you can remember certain things from your childhood.... In your mind’s eye you can see them as though they just happened yesterday?

I have a memory of when I was maybe 5 or 6 years old, dressed up in my Daniel Boone outfit, complete with coon skin cap walking barefoot through a large pile, of what I thought was burned up ash from a piles of leaves that had been burnt, only to discover that there was some sticks at the bottom of the ash heap that were still smoldering HOT COALS. Ouch!

I have many other memories all throughout my live that come to mind from time to time, as you probably do as well.

I have talked to people in their 90's who could recall, with amazing clarity, things that happened 70-80 years ago!

Our ability to remember is one of the most important aspects that we humans have.

That is why diseases such as dementia & Alzheimer's are so sad... They affect that particular part of the brain that robs them of their ability to remember.

But in the healthy mind, there is a tremendous, God given, God created ability to remember....

Another thing about memory is that, to some degree, we seem to be able to control what we remember.

Most often, if something is important to us we will remember it.

Sometimes the unpleasant things we can seem to block from our memory.

EXAMPLE: Men may remember the super bowl score from last year & remember every important play--but forget to take out the garbage 5 minutes after their wives ask them to!

Wives can remember what they wore 40 years ago when you went out on your first date---but forget to check the oil in the car when they fill up with gas after you have told them to be sure to do it.

Why? We have a tendency to remember the things that are important to us, and forget the things that are not as important.

**Psal 105:1 (NIV) Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.**

**2 Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.**

**3 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.**

**4 Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.**

**5 Remember the wonders he has done,**

**His miracles, and the judgments He pronounced..**

Let me ask you a question? Have you ever found yourself remembering things from 10-20-30 years ago yet forgetting what God did yesterday?

I believe that the main reason that God has given us the ability to remember that He has is so that we can remember and be mindful of Him!!

**5 Remember the wonders he has done,**

**His miracles, and the judgments He pronounced,**

The Hebrew word used here for remember is:

**02142 zakar {zaw-kar'}**

**1) to remember, recall, call to mind**

Remembering isn't necessarily an automatic thing.

Sometimes in order for us to remember will require a conscious effort on our part. (Lose the car keys and have to rethink your steps)

Sometimes we need to call something to mind in order to remember it!

Scripture tells us to: **Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced.**

We will remember that which is important to us.

God wants to be important to us so that we will remember Him and all His mighty deeds..

Example: I can remember several years ago when we did the first parsonage remodel here at the Church, where we gutted the building and removed all the interior walls and moved the staircase.

It seemed to go on forever and I can remember starting to get burned out and asking myself;

is this ever going to be done!

I was kind of having my own pity party…

King David writes of a pity party he was having for himself one day...

**Psal 77:7 (NIV) "Will the Lord reject forever?**

**Will he never show his favor again?**

**8 Has his unfailing love vanished forever?**

**Has his promise failed for all time?**

**9 Has God forgotten to be merciful?**

**Has he in anger withheld his compassion?"**

Paraphrase---God, where are you?

But then David goes on....

**10 Then I thought, "To this I will appeal:**

**the years of the right hand of the Most High."**

**11 I will remember the deeds of the LORD;**

**yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.**

**12 I will meditate on all your works**

**and consider all your mighty deeds.**

**13 Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God?**

**14 You are the God who performs miracles;**

**you display your power among the peoples.**

**15 With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.**

When things were not going so well for the King, when he started to think that God didn't care, all that David had to do was to remember, to make the effort to call to mind the great and miraculous things that God had done!

**I will remember the deeds of the LORD;**

**yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.**

So, during our remodel I made a conscious effort to remember the wonders that God has done here-

Back then it started with a donated window-then a beam to use as a header as we tore out a load bearing wall--then more windows were donated--then counter tops and cabinets, not to mention all those who God had risen up to help! People from both inside and outside of Oak Grove! And all at the perfect time!

Then the second remodel just a few years ago when we put on the addition. The foundation and concrete work was all donated! The man who framed the addition donated his time and gave us the material at cost. Everything happened at the exact right time.

Again, people from both inside and outside the Church came and offered their expertise at just the right times!

Folks, what we have been able to do and what we have seen happen in all this is nothing short of miraculous for a Church our size! The Church did not go one penny in debt to do all that has been done out here! God has been faithful!

Yet, how often are we guilty of not remembering the mighty deeds of our God?

And how do you suppose it makes Him feel when we do so?

Example: A wife may make a special supper for her family, put a lot of work in it--take all day to prepare it.

And then two days later, as you may be serving up the hamburger Helper, you hear the comment--- “don't we ever have anything good to eat around here!”

How would it make you feel?

How do you suppose it makes God feel when we take Him for granted and don't make the effort to remember all the things that He has done for us?

It all comes back to, we will remember, we will make the effort to call to mind, that which we see as important in our lives!

**Jere 2:32 (NIV) Does a maiden forget her jewelry, a bride her wedding ornaments?**

**Yet my people have forgotten me, days without number.**

In Jeremiah's day, this was quite a while after God had delivered his people from over 300 years of bondage in Egypt! And He delivered them with many, many great miracles!

As we look back to Moses going before Pharaoh to try to get him to let Gods people go, why did God go through all that He did with Pharaoh? Why take the time to go through all the plagues?

He turned Aarons staff into a snake, He turned the rivers to blood, He sent a plague of frogs, and then a plague of gnat’s, and then a plague of flies, then God sent a plague on the cattle and then a plague of boils, and then a plague of hail, and then a plague of locust, then a plague of darkness and then finally a plague of death to all the first-born in Egypt that weren't covered by the blood of the Passover lamb!

I mean God could have wiped out Pharaoh and the Egyptians with one stroke of His little finger and delivered Israel immediately!

Why didn't He?

Because with each miracle, with each demonstration of His mighty power, God was giving His people something to remember, something to call to mind that would help them learn to rely upon and put their trust in Him!

All that they had to do was see what God had done for them as something important! Something valuable!

Yet what happens?

God leads them through the desert with a great cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, and as they are about to be overtaken and destroyed by Pharaoh and his army, God parts the red sea for them so that they could walk through on dry ground, and then God destroys the armies of Pharaoh in the sea as they chase after them...

All this display of Gods might and power and provision and what’s the first thing that the people do?

Complain! They complain that they don't have enough to eat! So God provides the manna from heaven! The people get tired of just manna so they complain again---God sends quail--All they have to do is go out and pick them up off the ground...

Then they complain that God has forsaken them and left them to die of thirst out in the wilderness!

So God brings forth water from a rock to quench their thirst!

Do the people remember, do they call to mind all these mighty miracles of God when times get a little tough?

Has God convinced them that they have nothing to worry about as long as they just trust in Him! No!

**Jere 2:32 (NIV) Does a maiden forget her jewelry, a bride her wedding ornaments?**

Does a bride forget her wedding day or a man forget the day that his first child is born?

No, of course they don't!

Why don't they? Because these things are very important to them!

After all that God did for this people, miracle after miracle, within just a few years God has this to say about them...

**Yet my people have forgotten me, days without number.**

How often do we do the same thing?

When we fail to stop and call to mind all that God has done for us, we are saying that God isn't really all that important to us!

Most probably, each and every one of us here today has personally experienced God’s miracles in our lives!

If you are a Christian, if you have accepted Jesus as the Lord and Savior of your life, than you have experienced a miracle that is as great as any miracle that God has ever performed!

The miracle of God’s Grace! The miracle of His Great forgiveness! The miracle of the old being made new in Christ! The miracle of the Love God has lavished upon us as is revealed to us in:

**Romans 5:8(NIV)**  **8But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

A love that is so great, so profound that He gave His life to pay the price for our sin!

The one transgressed against willingly paying the price and penalty for the transgressor, the one who sinned against Him!

Example: Someone breaks into your home and kills your wife and children, and yet because of your love and concern for that person, who committed such an atrocious act against you, when they stand before the judge you go and make a plea for their life! You even go so far as to tell the judge that you want to stand condemned in their place! Take their punishment upon yourself!

That is exactly what Jesus has done for you and me!

The one transgressed against standing in the place of the transgressor!

Church that is a miracle of major proportions! That is thee miracle of Gods miracles....

**John 3:16 (NIV) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

If we have experienced this miracle of God’s forgiveness and great salvation in our life, how than how can we ever forget it? How can it ever not be on our mind?

Yet, so often, we even take this miracle for granted!

We allow the trials and tribulations and circumstances of this life to take our minds off of the only one who can deliver us from those very things!

Church, are we being mindful of God? Are we being diligent to call to mind the great and mighty things that He has done for us?

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**seek his face always.**

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Are you mindful of the Lord this morning for all He has done for you?

I would challenge us this morning to make a covenant with the Lord that we will always be mindful of Him! That with each day that He gives us, we will give thanks to Him and make known among the nations what He has done!

That we would always sing praise to Him and give glory to His Holy name by our remembering all the wonders that He has done for us, and then sharing those wonders with those around us, those who God may bring across our path, leading them to the wondrous, miracle working God of Creation.

Prayer-

Lord, forgive us for our forgetfulness!