

# Remembering to Give Thanks

## Deut 8

1 All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers. 2 And **thou shalt remember** all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, *and* to prove thee, to know what *was* in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. 3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every *word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. 4 Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years. 5 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, *so* the LORD thy God chasteneth thee. 6 Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him. 7 For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; 8 A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; 9 A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any *thing* in it; a land whose stones *are* iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass. 10 When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. 11 **Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God**, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: 12 Lest *when* thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt *therein*; 13 And *when* thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; 14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and **thou forget the LORD thy God**, which brought thee

forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; 15 Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, *wherein were* fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where *there was* no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; 16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end; 17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of *mine* hand hath gotten me this wealth.

18 But **thou shalt remember the LORD thy God**: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. 19 And it shall be, if thou do at all **forget the LORD thy God**, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. 20 As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.

## Introduction:

1. Well, Thanksgiving Day is upon us! And the Butterball hot-line is still alive and well after 26 years of operation!
  - a. Yes, folks, it is the fiftieth anniversary of the Butterball brand and 26 years of the most famous turkey cooking hot line of them all.
  - b. Almost 3 million calls for help spanning 26 years.
  - c. 52 turkey advisors all trained at Butterball University
  - d. 26 yrs of calls to the Butter Ball hotline, and we still need a lot of help.
  - e. One woman called from Colorado. Her problem? She had stored her turkey in a snow bank in her back yard. It had snowed more. And now she couldn't find it! She had no idea where her turkey was and she wanted them to help her find it!

- f. Another woman called to ask if it was OK...to stuff her turkey.. with popcorn! Can you imagine?
  - g. Some guy called and he wanted to know why the turkey cooking in his oven was making so much SMOKE. The instructions said to remove the wrapper and “put it on the rack.” So that’s what he did, plopped it on the oven rack without a pan under it. And all those drippings were going straight to the bottom of the oven
  - h. A Virginia woman called and asked: “How do you thaw a fresh turkey?” The hotline staffer had to explain to her that a fresh turkey has not been frozen, so it was unnecessary to thaw it!
  - i. A restaurant owner in CA wanted to know how to roast a turkey for a vegetarian menu!
  - j. Another woman from the West Coast used bleach to scrub her turkey, ‘cause it said to first clean the bird! She got really upset when she was told to throw the bird out and start over!
  - k. Apparently we need a lot of help with our Thanksgiving turkeys. But what we really need help with, is this thing called “Thanksgiving.”
2. As we begin we need to consider the context of the passage.
    - a. We have picked up in the middle of a message that Moses was preaching to Israel just prior to their entering the Promised Land.
    - b. They were in the plain of Moab, across the Jordan River from Jericho, and Canaan was in view.
  3. The book of Deuteronomy is a book of review, a book of remembrance.
    - a. If there is a keyword in the book of Deuteronomy it is the word “remember”
    - b. We find the word “remember” 14x in the book of Deut.
  4. Moses spent much time rehearsing the law and will of God for their lives prior to his departure.

5. Three things were essential for Israel's conquest and enjoyment of the promised land were: listening to God's Word, remembering it, and obeying it
6. Thursday is Thanksgiving - a time of remembrance and reflection on the blessings that we have received of our Lord.
7. In these verses we discover the challenge and obligation of offering genuine thanksgiving to the Lord.
8. I want to speak to you this morning on "A Heart of Thanksgiving".

## I. THE ABUNDANCE FROM OUR LORD - vs 1-9

- Here Moses reminds the children of Israel of the goodness of the Lord and His abundance.
- Our existence is much different from that of Israel, but we too have received the same blessings from God. Notice:

### A. ***God Had Blessed Their Past - vs 2-4***

2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, *and* to prove thee, to know what *was* in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. 3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every *word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. 4 Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.

1. The word "remember" deals with those blessings of the past.
  - a) *2x in this chapter Moses told the people to remember and 3x he told them not to forget*
  - b) *Because of our fallen nature thanksgiving does not come naturally*
  - c) *It goes against our fallen nature*

- d) *One big problem is that we are prone to forget*
- e) *One cynic said, "If you want to find gratitude, look in the dictionary."*
- f) *No one has as much to be thankful for as believers.*
- g) *Jesus healed ten lepers - Lu 17:12*

12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: 13 And they lifted up *their* voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. 14 And when he saw *them*, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. 15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 And fell down on *his* face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. 17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where *are* the nine? 18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

- 2. God led them in the wilderness 40 years, feeding them with manna from heaven and even ensured that their clothes didn't wear out or get too small.
  - a) *Don't raise your hand - anyone here wearing a garment that is 40 yrs old?*
  - b) *Imagine walking barefoot for 40 yrs and their feet did not swell*
- 3. Would we not have to admit that God has blessed our past?
  - a) *Has He not been faithful in years gone by?*
  - b) *Has He not always met our need?*

## **B. God was Blessing Their Present - vs 7-8**

7 For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; 8 A

land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey;

1. At that very moment God was bringing them out of the wilderness.
2. They were on the verge of Canaan.
3. God was doing good in their lives at that very moment!
4. Just contrast the promised land and the wilderness
  - a) *Wilderness - vs 15-16 - terrible wilderness, fiery serpents and scorpions, no water, no food (manna)*
  - b) *Promised land - vs 7-8 - good land, water, wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey, bread*
5. Take just a moment to consider what the Lord has done for us even today.
  - a) *Has He not been good and gracious in our lives today?*
  - b) *Has He not blessed us at this very moment?*
  - c) *We don't have to look back with regret, having only memories of God's blessing; we are enjoying them even now!*

### **c. God Would Bless Their Future - vs 9**

9 A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any *thing* in it; a land whose stones *are* iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.

1. They were yet to enter the Promised Land and already Moses spoke of the blessings of God they would enjoy.
2. He had not brought them through the wilderness to abandon them in Canaan.
3. God would continue to bless His people as long as they continued to serve Him.
4. I rejoice that we serve One who will never leave us nor forsake us.
  - a) *We have a blessed hope and a sure promise of God's goodness in our lives.*

- b) *God will bless our future as long as we follow Him, but I fear that many in America are no longer looking to the Lord or thankful for His goodness.*
5. We must maintain a proper respect and relationship with the Lord if we are to expect His blessing. Let's consider:

The Abundance from Our Lord....

## II. THE AWARENESS OF OUR LORD - VS 10-17

- Moses dealt with two aspects of our awareness. First we see:

### A. *The Duty Of Praise*

- He reminds the people of their duty, their obligation to praise the Lord.
  - He also reminds them why they should praise God
  - Why should Israel and why should we praise the Lord?
1. Our Satisfaction - vs 10a
- 10 When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.**
- a) *After they had eaten and were full, they were to praise the Lord for their fullness.*
- b) *God had blessed them and satisfied their need.*
- c) *Oh, how we need to praise God for our satisfaction.*
- (1) How many times do we go to the table and eat until we are filled?
  - (2) How many of our urgent needs has God failed to supply?
  - (3) We would have to admit that we are blessed beyond measure.
  - (4) If anyone ought to have the ability to praise Him, we should.
2. Our Source - vs 10b

10 When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

- a) *Moses reminds Israel and all who read these words of the source of all our blessings.*
- b) *We are to praise Him from whom all blessings flow!*
- c) *God is the provider of all the goodness we receive!*
- d) *Do you have a job to provide for your family?*
  - (1) Is there money in the bank, food on the table, clothes in the closet?
  - (2) God gave all of that!

### 3. Our Salvation - vs 14b

14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

- a) *Moses spoke of the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage*
- b) *He reminded them of the bondage they were under and the deliverance that the Lord brought unto them.*
- c) *It is impossible to praise the Lord if we have forgotten our salvation!*
  - (1) I remember a time when I was much like the Hebrews in Egypt.
  - (2) I was bound by the chains of sin and forced to serve a cruel task master who sought to keep me bound.
  - (3) But praise the Lord He came to me in my moment of need, saved my soul, forgave my sin, lifted me out of the miry clay, placed me within His family, and guaranteed a home in heaven for all eternity!
  - (4) Of all that I am thankful for, nothing is more precious than my salvation.



#### 4. Our Security - vs 15-16

15 Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, *wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; 16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;*

- a) *Now Moses reminded them of the wondrous protection and provision that God blessed them with in the wilderness.*
- b) *They came out of Egypt after being in bondage all those years without much skill other than brick making and God provided every need.*
- c) *He fought their battles; He fed their families; He favored them and led them in the way!*
- d) *I don't know about you, but I rejoice in the security that I have in my Lord.*
  - (1) I know that my soul is secure in Him and that I will inherit eternal life when I die, but I can enjoy His blessed security today!
  - (2) I have no idea what tomorrow may bring.
  - (3) I don't know how much worse things will get before we are called out of this world, but I do know that my God is in control.
  - (4) David declared that he had never seen the righteous forsaken or his seed begging bread.
  - (5) We may never have all we want, but God will provide what we need.

## B. The Danger of Pride - vs 11, 17

- They had not yet entered the land and Moses was already warning them of the danger of pride.
- It is hard for a proud heart to be thankful to anyone for anything.
- Notice what God's Word reveals to us concerning pride:

### 1. Pride Promotes Disobedience - vs 14

**14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;**

- a) *Moses warned that pride would cause the people to forget the commandments of God.*
- b) *It would cause them to stray from Him and hinder their relationship.*
- c) *Pride will generate that same response in our lives as well.*
  - (1) When we get to the place that we feel as if we have accomplished something on our own, we see no need to submit to the authority and leadership of another.
  - (2) I fear that many feel as if they are doing fine in their own way and no longer see the need to follow the Lord and His will for their lives.
  - (3) Pride will usually promote an attitude of disobedience.

### 2. Pride Promotes Arrogance - vs 17

**17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.**

- a) *Moses warned of the dangers associated with arrogance.*
- b) *He had already reminded them that it was God who cared for them in the wilderness and it would be God that would give them a land of plenty.*

- c) *He knew that they would be tempted to assume that all of their good fortune was the result of their hard work and labor.*
- d) *It saddens me to see the state that our blessed nation is in today.*
  - (1) We have fallen victim to our own prosperity.
  - (2) Many may not want to admit it, but it was God who enabled us to prosper as we have.
  - (3) Had He not blessed us, we would be no different than any other nation.
- e) *Where the problem lies is that we have forgotten God.*
  - (1) We have assumed the very attitude that Moses warned about
  - (2) We want to take the credit for our prosperity.
  - (3) Many assume that their hard work has brought abundance.
  - (4) Hard work and planning are essential to prosperity, but it is God who gives the ability to work and the wisdom to plan.
  - (5) All that we enjoy, He has given!
- f) *May we humble ourselves before the Lord and praise Him for His abundant blessings!*

## Conclusion:

1. As we close today, what are you thankful for?
2. Is there anything you would like to praise God for?
3. The young man was feeling very proud of himself. As a brand new college graduate he had taken the C.P.A. Exams and passed with flying colors. Now he was a full-fledged Certified Public Accountant. His father had been an immigrant to the U.S., and now owned his own little business. Filled with self-importance, the young man began to criticize his father's way of keeping books. He said, "Dad, you don't even know how much profit you've made. Over here in this drawer are your accounts receivable. Over there are your receipts and you keep all

your money in the cash register. You don't have any idea how much money you've made."

The father answered, "Son, when I came to this country the only thing I owned was a pair of pants. Now, your brother is a doctor, your sister is an art teacher, and you are a C.P.A. Your mother and I own our home. We have a car and we own this little business. Now add that up, subtract the pants and all the rest is profit."

**ADD IT UP!** That's exactly what we need to do at Thanksgiving. Add it all up. We came into this world with nothing but the eternal soul that God gave us. Everything else is profit. We can never give too much thanks to God!