



*Giffnock
the Park Church*

*Sunday 7th June 2020
Sunday Devotional :
Taking time to Remember*



Dear Friends,

As another week draws to a close and as a new week begins we again come to reflect on the goodness of God and wisdom of his Word as a source of inspiration to guide, to inspire, to challenge and to encourage us in our faith and the blessings we enjoy as well as the struggles that we contend with. The obvious thing to be able to give thanks for these days is that we can perhaps begin to see the rays of a hopeful normality returning to daily life again. I am sure many of us will have taken the opportunity meet up in the back gardens or a local park like Rouken Glen Park to catch up with loved ones we may not have seen for some time and with the exceptionally good weather even perhaps enjoyed a BBQ.

I have had the chance to speak or correspond with some who have all voiced their enjoyment of these devotionals and I'm grateful for the positive feedback although it must be said there is still no substitute for meeting together despite the video conferencing that some are doing, and telephone calls and so on, there is nothing better than the company of one another and I am sure we are looking forward to the day when our churches can once again be open and we can give thanks to God collectively again for his grace and favour sustaining us at this time. Until that day comes I will endeavour to continue what we have been doing in the hope that it encourages. For now I hope you will stay safe and healthy.
With Best Wishes from all at the manse.

Calum D. Macdonald



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Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²[a]fixing our eyes on Jesus, the [6]author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12: 1 & 2)

Lord God Almighty,

As each of us faces a new day helps us to take your hope rising with the dawn. As we face a new day help us to see Your love in action in the lives of those round about us. As we each face a new day may we see Your promises come to fruition throughout this day and these days to come.

Father as we look to the week ahead keep us mindful of your Grace and Mercy upon us and help us not to turn away from you distracted by the events and situations facing us all at this time. We would seek to follow the guidance of your Word to “fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith”.

Forgive us those times we forget your Love for us and the sacrifice made by your Son and our Lord. Forgive us when we harbour resentment and vent frustration towards others. Help us once again to have the mind of Jesus who sought always to be gracious and forgiving and may we by the lives we live and the things we say reflect that great love that you have had for us and continue to show through your forbearing Grace which is all sufficient.

Reassure us in the moments we fear what is to happen next, strengthen each one of us when reliance on our own strength falters and uphold us by Your Spirit within us, the seal and guarantee of your Promise to us.

By and through these things may we bring honour and glory to your name as we face not just the dawn of a new morning but the days of a new week to come... in Jesus name we pray. Amen !



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*Psalm 105: 1 – 11 & 42 - 45
New International Version - UK (NIVUK)*

*¹ Give praise to the LORD, proclaim 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,
⁶ you his servants, the descendants of Abraham,
his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.*

*⁷ He is the LORD our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.*

*⁸ He remembers his covenant for ever,
the promise he made, for a thousand generations,*

*⁹ the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.*

*¹⁰ He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant:*

*¹¹ 'To you I will give the land of Canaan
as the portion you will inherit.'*

*For he remembered his holy promise
given to his servant Abraham.*

⁴³ *He brought out his people with rejoicing,
his chosen ones with shouts of joy;
⁴⁴ he gave them the lands of the nations,
and they fell heir to what others had toiled for –
⁴⁵ that they might keep his precepts
and observe his laws.*

Praise the LORD.



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Good morning everyone

For our reflection this morning I have thought to tie in the importance of memory and the need for remembrance with what the bible teaches on what is important to remember and why.

With all that has been happening in our own nation and around the world as we all seek to contend with this dreadful Pandemic, it has left so many other situations and concerns on the back burner for the time being. Elective Surgery and Routine Health care on hold and many of the great charitable institutions are now struggling along with many of the food banks having more demands placed upon them. The Week of the General Assembly usually coincides with Christian Aid Week and our adverts online and on the television are full of various groups from Zoos and Donkey charities, to many of African and other nations Poverty charities looking to support children, or those with Cancer or heart disease. We are beginning to see how charities themselves and the great work they do have been badly affected by the Pandemic.

This week would have been Dementia Awareness week and I am conscious that most, if not all of us, have been impacted by someone in our family or our congregation which is our church family who had Dementia of one form or another. The Church of Scotland has had Dementia Care Service for many years offering a good quality of care in residence and in the community to those with Dementia.

Within the Newton Mearns, Clarkston and Giffnock locale there have been three services offered through the local churches, the nearest to us has been that of the Sunshine Club based at The United Reformed Church here in Giffnock involving volunteers from The URC, Giffnock South & Orchardhill Congregations offering a place of respite for clients with dementia as support for them and their families. Dementia is a horrible diseased condition that robs people of their memory, their personality and ability to socially function in the midst of others. The horrible thing about this is that one is left with the shell of the body but the person is gone and for many there is a sense of a living Death.

That being said, when I did services at Williamwood House taking my guitar to sing with those round about, one of the things that was incredible to see was how despite being unable to converse with loved ones, when we started to sing some of these marvellous old Hymns, Like Jesus Loves you, To God be the Glory or Blessed Assurance Jesus is mine, they would come alive and the singing was great. Unable to read words they were able to sing from memory somehow. When I would pray, sometimes someone would try to interrupt and have a conversation with someone else, loudly because they were often very hard of hearing, but when I led them then in the Lord's Prayer , they would all join in and be remarkably word perfect.

One of the great comforts for me is that it would appear to me that our minds have intrinsically built in a need for worship. We may forget everything else but that part that stirs the soul to worship remains open. Another thing comforts me in all this is that - God always remembers. That nothing is lost on Him. To be omniscient requires that you are always able to remember and He never forgets unless he chooses to.

The Psalm is thought to be a composition of David, written and sung for the bringing of the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem. It is not specifically attributed to King David, but it is generally understood that He is the author. There are several Points where reference is made about Remembering. In the opening Verses we are challenged to give God thanks as we "remember the wonders of what He has done". We are to "make Him known among the Nations" - sing our praises to and of Him, - and let our hearts rejoice.

One might ask the question Why? Apart from the Obvious answers about Who Jesus is, Why He came, what He achieved and continues to do for us, there is also the reason that God Remembers us and does so affectionately and perhaps at times frustratingly but always I think lovingly.

CH Spurgeon in his great Work, 'The Treasury of David', he Speaks of this. Saying, "***Here is the basis of all his dealings with his people: he had entered into covenant with them in their father Abraham, and to this covenant he remained faithful. The exhortation to remember (Ps 105:5) receives great force from the fact that God has remembered. If the Lord has his promise in memory surely we ought not to forget the wonderful manner in which he keeps it. To us it should be matter for deepest joy that never in any instance has the Lord been unmindful of his covenant engagements, nor will he be so world without end. O that we were as mindful of them as he is.***"

The Comfort for you and I today is that God remembers your name and that thanks to the saving grace of his Son, Our Lord Jesus, He does so lovingly and with the deepest of care and concern. He will keep us, sustain us, guide us and guard over us, He will take us through the blessing of life and the struggles of life and ultimately through the close of this life and the beginning of a glorious new life with Him for Eternity. Surely that is cause for us to give thanks today and every day no matter what may befall - Covid 19 or otherwise. God Bless You.

*In The Eyes Of God
this Day,
Your life is a Blessing
in the eyes of Him
who gave his life for
you.*

*Your memory is a
treasure in the eyes of
our Father, who
remembers his
Promise.*

*You are loved beyond
words and beyond
measure that's why
the Spirit lives in You
and Works Through
You this Day and
every Day.*

Amen

