

EVENTS TO REMEMBER

Exodus 13:3-16

[Drama # 2 “Remains of the Day” (The “forgotten” birthday)]

Have you ever forgotten an important day in someone else’s life? (Time to confess!)

Do you ever forget important events when GOD has done something special in YOUR life?

How do YOU *feel* when someone forgets a day that’s important to you?

How do you suppose GOD feels when we *forget* events that remind us of what He’s done?

All of us occasionally re-live the key events that have affected us:

Our Birth Graduation from high school, college, or grad school **Marriage**

Other events are important in our lives because they mark a turning point: be landing a new job, an athletic victory, making important speech, or publishing poem or article.

Some events are so significant that we remember them with a special celebration every year.

Wedding anniversaries, especially fifth, tenth, twenty-fifth, thirtieth, fortieth, fiftieth, or more.

When we worship, we remember special events in our lives.

ASK ISRAEL: “What’s most important event in your history?” => Exodus

Why? That’s when God delivered us.

That’s when we became God’s people

God freed Israel from slavery and made them His own people.

Jewish worship remembers and proclaims this event.

=> Exodus 12:14-28

=> Deut. 6:10-12, 20-23

Remove Exodus from Jewish history; their whole life would change.

[But not only this event!]

What other events are significant in Israel’s history? WHY?

Monument to remind them how God gave them the land. Josh. 4:4-7, 20-24

Jacob’s dream (=Jacob’s ladder) Gen. 28:16-22

1 Sam. 7:10-13--Eben-ezer--*Our rock!!!*

[For the church of Christ today also, our worship is event oriented.]

ASK CHURCH TODAY: What are the important events in OUR history?

Our worship focuses on **2 KINDS OF EVENTS:**

1. Our worship centers on key events of Christ’s life—His death and resurrection

That’s where God delivered *US*!

That’s where *WE* became God’s people

2. Our worship also centers on the key events of our own life.

Worship is about remembering what God has done for us.

An act of worship is essentially an act of acknowledgment.

One of main O.T. words for worship means “to acknowledge.”

—to acknowledge what God has done for us

—“I will acknowledge publicly what YOU have done for me in private!”

One of the main aspects of authentic Christian worship:

It centers around events — The events of His life the events of our life.

We remember what He did for us.

Scripture warns: **beware of the danger of not remembering. [of forgetting]**

Focus of our lives: remembering what God has done for us!

God is best known through verbs!

We know Him most clearly by His actions, by what He does.

God's mighty *acts* provide content for our worship.

In worship we remember and proclaim events.

We recognize turning points—times when God intervened on our behalf.

Events transform our lives: graduation, marriage, child birth, retirement, job change.

Events mark the stages of our lives. Our lives are defined by events.

We are known by what we have done, or by what has happened to us.

We focus on the things God has done for us—events He has taken us through.

Major events we've gone through have an impact on shaping our lives.

We look back on past events to remind ourselves we can trust God in the present.

In Israel's history: Remember Daniel 1-6?

In present uncertainties, Daniel is reminded of God's acts in past.

In our church

I don't ever want to forget what God did for us, giving us building in SLC.

If we forget, we may not remember we can trust Him with our needs this year!

If we forget, we may decide to use *PAGAN* methods to accomplish our goals

We better not forget *what God did!*

Same is true with **our family**, and with **our personal life**.

If we forget what God has done in past, we won't remember we can trust Him in present circumstances!

Though they don't lock us into a path, events of past do affect path we choose.

Sometimes those events in our lives seem positive.

We celebrate the birth of a new child or grandchild.

We celebrate significant accomplishments

Events that form basis of worship don't always *seem* positive when they occur. **Sometimes those events seem negative!**

A home destroyed by fire; a flood or an earthquake.

Economic disaster, or loss of a job.

Unexpected blow, just when we thought we were getting our act together!

John Garmo in *Lifestyle Worship*: winter of his experience—out of work, depressed, feeling rejected—he learned what worship was all about. Worship became most real to him and his family at that turning point.

He comments: Let me be quite honest. Lifestyle worship notwithstanding, the experience was not a joyride. Winter may have its moments of beauty, but it is not a thrill.

I felt the cold, and it penetrated my bark. I rehearsed gnawing questions of what I might have done wrong that precipitated my dismissal. Concern that Satan could use the situation to stir up dissension led Jan and me to withhold the sharing of our griefs, questions, and concerns with friends. That, in turn, led to concern about hurting friends if they misunderstood the nondisclosure of the details behind our departure. A catch-22.

Added to that was daily rejection in the marketplace as I searched for work, the suspicious looks ("Why does that guy want *this* job?"), the hurt, the sense of betrayal. I found myself slowly sinking into the quicksand of a sense of worthlessness.

I was mostly numb. It was a classic time for faith. Perceptions in such moments may not be reliable, but the feelings that come with the perceptions are nevertheless real. I have to say honestly that we're talking deep winter here—.deep, bleak winter. Have YOU been there?

Other FAILURES:

Beethoven's music teacher said, "As a composer, he's hopeless.

A music teacher told Caruso, "You can't sing. You have no voice at all."

Walt Disney was fired by a newspaper editor who decided that Walt had no good ideas.

Einstein could not speak until he was four years old and did not read until he was seven.

In acting school, Lucille Ball's teacher told her she would never amount to anything as an actress.

As a youngster, Thomas Edison's teachers said he was stupid.

Moses was vastly underrated, dismissed by some as a muddling, meddling murderer.

Joseph was sold for cash by his brothers.

David was the last son Jesse expected Samuel to anoint as the future king.

God loves to turn "Failures" into His choice models.

"His strength is made perfect in our weakness!"

Failure is a bridge to better abiding and to more effective serving.

That is precisely how it works.

"Turning point" events--whether positive or negative--motivate us to worship God in spirit and in truth.

In addition to "life-events" from the past, common current events impact our life today:

Sunday gatherings with God's people to remember what He's done for us.

--Established to remember another historic event: the resurrection.

It establishes a rhythm of spending time with God and His people.

It sets the pace for the rest of our week.

Spending time with Him daily has similar affect.

Daily time with God makes us aware of His presence

Young newlywed, upset with husband at convention; he was caught up with convention; didn't pay attention to her.

We all know the feeling—God wants us to center our lives on Him

To remember things He has done for us, and when He did them.

HOW DO WE REMIND OURSELVES OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THAT HAVE AFFECTED OUR LIVES?

We may use drama

We may use song

We may use the Lord's supper

We may use preaching

We may use Scripture reading, journaling, or meditation

All these help us remember events when God intervened and changed our lives.

We may use testimony times to share what God has done as He intervened in routine events, but intervened to make a difference and change our lives.

Demise of old-fashioned testimony service.

Perhaps because testimonies were often stale—people rehashing things from years ago.

Sharing should be fresh. "What the Lord is doing *today* in *my* life!"

As we share what God is doing in our lives, we make a statement about His importance. That's what worship is about.

It's acknowledging what He has done and praising Him for it!

When something great happens, we get excited—tell story over and over

We recognize great things God has done for us.

We have to tell other people about it.

As God intervened to deliver Israel and make them His people, Son of God became a man. lived, died, and rose again for us.

—to deliver *US* from bondage to sin —to make *US* His people

Similarly, Jesus continues to live for us.

Rom. 5—If He did so much for us when we were enemies, how much more will He do for us now?!!

We don't just look back at what He did 2-3 years ago—we *can still trust Him TODAY!*

We don't just look back to what He did for us 20 years ago in hills of Guatemala with revolutionaries roaming country.

Or, 5 years ago, when I was unemployed and wondering where God might take us next—and considering **TUCSON????!!**

We remember, so we will look ahead and trust Him today, wherever He may be leading us. **WE CAN TRUST HIM WITH IT!!!**

Jesus continues to work in the events of our lives today!

Can you imagine such a thing? Therefore, He deserves our praise.

Worship is natural response to events when He became involved for us.

Celebrating the great events of our life.

Have YOU forgotten an important event, you need to celebrate with your family this week?

Has anyone experienced God at work in your life, that you need to share with “*our family*” today?

Has it been too long since you acknowledged publically what God has done in your life? We want to encourage one another to trust Him, **remembering** key events in our life when God was there and ACKNOWLEDGING HIS MIGHTY WORKS for us.

Anyone wish to acknowledge something God’s done for you this morning?