

Reminder Notes
Deuteronomy 8; John 14:15-27
5-25-08

Memorial Day – picnics, visiting cemeteries (combining both), speeches, flags and the Indianapolis 500 (which has been on Memorial Day since 1911). Memorial Day is a time to remember people who have died in military service to our country. It was formally known as Decoration Day. It first began in Waterloo, NY honoring Union soldiers in 1866. After WWI it expanded to include all those who died in war or military action. It became known as Memorial Day after WWII and not a Federal holiday until 1967.

Remembering is important. Grandma asked Grandpa if he'd go get her a sundae. "Sure. What kind do you want?" "Vanilla ice cream, fudge topping, with nuts and a cherry. But you're so forgetful, you'd better write it down," Grandma said. "I won't forget", said Grandpa. After a long time he returned with a ham sandwich. Grandma examined it and with disappointment said, "See, I told you to write it down. You forgot the mustard."

Moses tells the people remember your past – remember where you have been and what God has done for you. The people of God are about to go through a huge transition. They are about to enter the Promise Land. Moses is concerned that they will forget the valuable life/faith lessons that they learned during their difficult days in the wilderness.

Five times he tells them to remember or don't forget. Remember that God delivered you out of slavery. Remember how God took you through the wilderness to teach you to trust him for everything – protection, food, water, clothing and even shoes. Remembering is important as they enter a new land that will have everything they need – flowing streams, wheat and barley, fruits, vegetables – you will have all you need. They will have find houses, flocks and herds, silver and gold.

The problem is sometimes people forget! If they forget, they will say, *look at what I have done for myself*. They will give the credit to themselves – I have gotten this wealth by my power and might forgetting that it is God who gives power to get wealth.

I don't know about you but I have a strong tendency to give God credit when I am doing the work. It sounds good. But you see, I am still doing the work and I know I am capable of making big accomplishments. I still give God credit with my words but in my heart I am keeping the credit. There comes a time in every person's life when he/she does not have the resources, knowledge or ability to accomplish or fix the situation. I would guess to say most of us do not like to be

in those situations. It usually means we are in a crisis situation that is larger than us.

Do you remember a time when God carried you through a crisis situation? How did not have the resources or capacity to get yourself through. Maybe we need to keep a journal of *God's work in my life*. That way we can go back and review the evidence of God's faithfulness and love.

David Shade was interviewed on NPR last week. He remembers when his dad took him to the cemetery every Memorial Day. His dad would coffee cans filled with flowers at certain gravestones. David asked who these people are. His dad told him these are people who have helped me and now they have no family left. This was Mr. Torpe. When we were poor he taught me how to drive with his car. He let me borrow it for errands into town.

Remembering is very important. Jesus assures his disciples and the church (us) that the Holy Spirit will help us remember his teachings. He will remind us. I am constantly writing reminder notes. You and I have God's Spirit in our hearts to remind us of who we are – God's beloved children, loved deeply and completely by Jesus Christ and blessed with a mission from God.

Both Moses and Jesus team up with the prediction that if we are not following the God's commandments and Jesus Teachings (Bible), we have forgotten God and become self-sufficient. When you and I depend more on ourselves than Christ, we will not read the Bible very much. We probably will not depend upon the stories of the constant faithfulness of God.

Is that true with you? When life is under our control, reading the Bible as way of remembering, relying and trusting God's provisions is not a priority!

Take a moment to thank God for what you wrote on the paper – the time the Lord helped you, providing for you.