

QUANTOCK MINISTRIES

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*A Bible teaching and preaching ministry
for the Christian community*

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REMEMBER WHEN JESUS

Introductory note

As the visiting speaker on 2 May 2021, I am just responsible for this subject as part 2 in a 3-part series at Martock Christian Fellowship. Although part 1 was “Remember when God (the Father)”, and part 3 will be “Remember when the Holy Spirit”, inevitably there is an overlap, as the whole of the Trinity is involved in the plan for our lives and redemption. Here we will try to keep in mind specifically our relationship with Jesus.

Opening reading – Acts 2 v 22 to 41. Peter asks the assembled throng to remember when they crucified Jesus, what happened next, and what they need to do about it.

1. The times of remembrance communally

Knowing our frailties, God instituted the whole idea of remembrance events. Much of the Old Testament pattern for life in Israel was to remember who God is and what He had done for them, so they would not forget their wonderful relationship with and dependence upon Him.

For us, together each year we specifically remember when Jesus was born, when He died and rose again, and when the Holy Spirit first came and instituted the Church. We are glad we live in a society that allows us to celebrate these occasions and, indeed, joins us, especially at Christmas. Amongst ourselves, we particularly remember the Lord’s sacrificial death when we break bread together, in obedience to His request that we should “Do this in remembrance of me”. Otherwise, it would be all too easy to forget the cost to Jesus of our redemption.

2. Why we should remember personally

In 1 John 3 v 2 – 3 we are reminded that the Lord is still working on us; the work is not yet finished. Each one of us is allocated a life - that is, a short space of time in this world to get ourselves right with God through faith in Jesus, and ready for our eternal destiny. As Christians there is a God-ordained plan and purpose for our lives, not a random series of disconnected events and experiences. We need to remember all that has happened to us on the path of life so that we can appreciate the Lord’s hand through all those events and see the continuity of His plan and grace.

3. How we remember

Remembering the events when Jesus moved in our lives is not a religious ritual. The Bible is full of instructions to “consider” – to think about what has happened and take stock. This should be part of our prayer life. Prayer is not just talking to the Lord, but “considering” - weighing up what He is doing in our lives, seeing a pattern, letting Him talk to us. Under that discipline He will bring back to our memory things He has taught us or shown us in the past, to help us put it all together. Writing down the times and events when Jesus really spoke to us is very useful to help our memories. Seek “the thin place”, where it seems the distance between us and the Lord is very thin, and access into His presence seems easy.

4. What we remember

In no particular order of importance these are some of the occasions we need to remember when Jesus really did something special in our experience.

Lessons we've learnt. We often say that something that has happened to us is a very important lesson. Do we remember them?

Blessings and providence. Past blessings show us the faithful nature of the Lord, which should encourage us when we face fresh challenges.

People and messages. Remembering the people whom the Lord put alongside us at different times, and the influence they had upon us. This may also be sermons we have heard or teaching we may have received.

Promises we've made to Jesus. These may be when we really wanted Him to move powerfully in our life, and we've forgotten what we did promise.

Our conversion experience. For some Christians that may have been a major event that completely changed them. We need to always remember the impact of that moment.

Our baptism experience. Identifying with the Lord in death, burial, and resurrection symbolically in the water of baptism should be an experience we never forget.

Mistakes and failings. These are often part of the learning experience the Lord causes us to pass through. Are we forgetting what we learnt then, and making the same mistakes again?

Besetting sins. A more intrinsic part of our nature – the way we think and act that has not been brought under the control of the Lord. These can change as we get older! As we remember times when Jesus showed us what we are really like, we need to seek sanctifying grace in those areas.

Callings and gifts. Have we forgotten the moments when Jesus clearly called us to areas of service, and gave us the necessary anointing? In remembering, we must "stir up" the gifts we have.

Revelations and experiences. Events in our Christian walk that were amazing and refreshing at the time, but have been dulled by subsequent events, obscuring our memories.

5. The importance of remembering

In order to make progress in our walk with Jesus, especially in two areas:

Balance. It is so easy to move to an extreme one way or another. Only remembering when Jesus made Himself real to us can we maintain a calm, considered, and balanced spiritual life.

Maturity. Each of us should be growing in maturity in spirit, love, service, and obedience. Remembering the Lord's hand in our life will enable us to display a life spent walking with Him.

Postscript

Luke 16 v 25: "Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things". Memory will be perfectly restored when those without faith in Jesus stand before Him.

Hebrews 12 v 2: "Consider Him, who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart". As we consider the hand of Jesus in our lives, as an act of remembrance, it will help us to finish the race and win the prize.