

REMEMBER THIS DAY**Exodus 12:33-13:16**

Intro: I didn't have a chance last week to point out that besides all of Moses's other accomplishments, he had technical capabilities way ahead of his time.

I found that this week and just couldn't pass it up. Now on to the message,

As you know, a couple weeks ago Kathy and I attended my Fifty Year High School Reunion. Well, about a month ago I introduced you to my friend TJ in my sermon and he was at the reunion along with many others – most of whom I had not seen in all of those 50 years. It was actually the first time TJ and Kathy had ever met and his first words to Kathy were, *"Have I got some stories about your husband!"* Cold fear struck my very soul. I never did anything particularly memorable, but I had no idea what TJ might have up his sleeve or stashed in his memory. It turned out that they were pretty harmless. The whole evening was sitting around the table with really precious people and sharing, Remember when? stories.

My family deer camp is this way too. I don't often see a deer when I'm hunting with my brothers and nephews at our cabin in Pennsylvania. But each night as we are gathered around the little living room as we're sequestered in the cabin, wood stove warming us against the snow and cold outside, my brothers and I reminisce. There is much laughter and sometimes some tears. There's nothing like a good Remember when? story.

Our message for today is about a Remember when? story. In fact, this particular "Remember when?" came with a command from God: Remember this Day. The people of Israel didn't have a choice, they had to remember. They needed to remember. They needed to never forget what God did bringing them out of slavery in Egypt. It's what makes the truth of Matthew Henry's words on the front of your worship folder so powerful and true, *"The more of God and his power appears in any deliverance, the more memorable it is."*

God is reminding them with "Remember when Israel? Remember what, Israel? Remember this day Israel – it's just the first in a history of examples of my love, care and deliverance."

That command isn't just for the Israelites – it's for us too. We need to remember and never forget that we have been delivered so there is much for us to learn here. Let's look at it.

First some background . . .

Hopefully you took my suggestion and read our entire text which is Exodus 12:33-13:16 because I will make references to it throughout the talk.

Two weeks ago we talked about the 10 plagues of which the final one was the most horrific by far – the death of all firstborn in all of Egypt – both man and beast – but not of the children of Israel – they escaped the plague as they had every one of the previous nine.

Finally the Egyptians, from Pharaoh on down said "ENOUGH!" They couldn't get rid of the Israelites fast enough. They said "Here, take this, whatever you want! Just get out of here!"

So the Hebrews packed up everything, including the bread dough that had no time to even rise and they headed for the desert. They also packed up the dough of the Egyptians – our text says, . . . *they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. And the Lord had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.* Exodus 12:35b-36 and so the Egyptians financed Israel's escape.

Their 430 years in Egypt ended with a migration of 600,000 men, their families, their flocks and herds of livestock traveling to Succoth – which was probably about 120 miles away. This was the beginning of the Exodus – after which this book and this series are titled. Exodus means "The way out" and this was the beginning of the way out of Egypt. It was a monumental task – probably over 2 million people and a corresponding number of herds of animals.

I'm also interested that the text tells us that *a mixed multitude also went up with them.* Exodus 12:38a. There were people along who were not purebred Hebrews, but they had married in or just joined with this group of people who obviously enjoyed the blessing of a God who was actually there.

Notice one more thing – for a mass movement – absolute obedience is necessary. When God said, "Leave!" they left. When God said "Leave! That meant there was no time to bake – there was only time to get out of Egypt.

This is what God wanted them to remember as they had their holy celebration.

Now, just a little bit ago I pointed out that it was a mixed crowd – not everyone was a Hebrew, but our text says, *And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “This is the statute of the Passover: no foreigner shall eat of it,* Exodus 12:43. How could Everyone participate in the celebration of Passover? They needed to be circumcised. Circumcision was an act of obedience which set the people of Israel apart for God.

This recognized the utter seriousness and solemnity of the celebration of Passover.

In response to God’s requirement, which was pretty extensive, our text says *All the people of Israel did just as the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron. And on that very day the Lord brought the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their hosts.* Exodus 12:50-51.

They looked at one another with amazement and asked, “*Remember when we actually listened to and then obeyed God? Wow! Wasn’t that a great day?!*”

And what did God ask in return? Their own firstborn. They had escaped the plague in Egypt and now God required the first fruits. This is all God ever asks of his people – Give of your best to the master. He wants us all. The same Lord who brought Israel out of Egypt gives and sustains and so rightfully, owns and possesses all life.

Listen. (Read Exodus 13:1-16)

And also he wants us to . . .

Remember this day

- Remember God’s strength that made it all possible
- Commemorate it with the bread of remembrance.
- The Israelites would be reminded in the month of Abib. Every year when it rolls around their memory is stirred. It’s like our celebration of anniversaries birthdays which are a time of celebration and thanks to God for what he has done.
- We will remember this day and this sojourn that brought not only deliverance, but reward. For the Hebrews it was their homeland, and land flowing with milk and honey.
- Remember to tell your kids –
 - God did this for us as a people!
 - God did this for me!
 - God did this for you too!
- Imprint it on your mind
- Imprint it in your words
- When you remember this day it is a sign for all and forever of the goodness of God.

Conclusion: There are so many parallels here for us. Our spiritual ancestors, the chosen people of God, were called to remember and so are we. God sent his firstborn to be the final Passover lamb. Remember this.

When we break the bread and drink the cup as we did last week, we do this in remembrance of him who gave his life for us

We remember God’s power and strength over sin and death – by it we have eternal life

We remember our own deliverance from slavery to sin and death and our deliverance is to our promised land, which is eternal life.

The command then is to pass it on. The people of Israel were to carry their remembrance like a written sign on their foreheads or on the back of their hand – we need to have it imprinted into our very being so that just by looking at us and hearing our words, will know that we are Christ Followers. We need to teach our children in the same way to remember this day – or simple to just remember that God is good, all the time. Amen.