

## Introduction:

One of the hardest realities of life is realizing how much changes.

- Leaders change
- Jobs and careers change
- Families change
- Churches change
- Our health changes
- Our life circumstances change

And eventually every one of us experiences the painful reality of endings.

Here are a couple pictures from my growing up years in Ohio. A picture of my childhood home...and the church where I met Jesus when I was 6 years old. The church I attended until I was a freshman in high school. I have all sorts of memories of these places, but when I went back and took these pictures a lot has changed.

At times like these, you suddenly you realize how time has moved on. The places that once felt permanent...weren't!

{Here's a before and after picture of our home in Paradise when I went back to it after the fire. When I went back after the fire it was shocking... totally different...the home...the whole town...and the church though it didn't burn, it is totally different...people moved away, moved on, and what was once a thriving 1500-person church is now less than 300.

Life has a blunt way of reminding us. Nothing earthly lasts forever. And that can feel really unsettling.

**[Transition]** - As we come to the end of our series in Deuteronomy, it ends by reminding us of something deeply comforting: Even though life, and circumstances, and people change...God faithfulness never does! I

want you to stop and think about this for a moment. Even though our faithfulness changes, even though our faithfulness waivers, God's never does. Turn with me to Deut. 32. I want to show you something. Moses quotes the lyrics of a song to the people. Look with me at verses:1-14

### **1. God remains faithful even when his people fail**

One of the first lessons that jumps out at us from these lyrics of Moses' song is that *human unfaithfulness never cancels God's faithfulness!*

The Song of Moses begins by magnifying God. Verse 4 says: "He is the Rock, His works are perfect...all his ways just" (32:4). He goes on to declare: God is...

- steady
- righteous
- trustworthy
- faithful

But what did Israel repeatedly do? Wandered. What are we prone to do? Wander. The theme of this Song declares this comforting truth: *God remained faithful...even when His people did not.*

**[Illustration]** - Think about a parent teaching a toddler to walk. The child stumbles constantly. Falls repeatedly. Loses balance. But mom and dad don't walk away after every fall. A parent remains patient, present, committed.

That's the picture here. Israel repeatedly stumbled spiritually. But *God's covenant faithfulness remained steady.*

**[Application]** - I think most of us have had moments when we wondered: "What if my failures finally exhaust God's patience?" This passage reminds us of something super important to remember: *God's faithfulness is rooted in His character—not our perfection.* That truth must never excuse our sin. But it does magnify God's grace. This means: Our inconsistency does not erase God's consistency.

**[Transition]** – This is a comforting truth to know, but again...we must never allow it to excuse our inconsistency or unfaithfulness. On the contrary, we have got to pay attention to the currents that lead us to drift spiritually, pay attention to what lead us to be inconsistent. In fact, the next thing Moses tells us is, forgetfulness is often the culprit! Forgetfulness leads to spiritual drift. Look at verses 15-18.

## **2. Forgetting God always leads to spiritual drift**

As they acclimated and got comfortable in the promise land, Israel grew comfortable. Prosperous. Self-sufficient. Just as Moses warned them back in Chapter 8, *“When you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, **13** and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, **14** then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt.”*

Then Moses goes on...He was the one who led you through the wilderness and provided for your every need. But, in your forgetfulness verse 17 says, *“You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.”*

And that’s exactly what happened. And now in our text today, sadly Moses sums it up this way: *“You forgot the God who gave you birth.”*

Can we just all admit together...this is a huge danger for us. Spiritual drift rarely happens suddenly. When people forget God, they eventually replace him. It’s an insidious creep. It happens gradually through forgetfulness.

**[Illustration]** – Think about marriages that fail. Most marriages don’t collapse overnight.

- Distance grows slowly
- Communication weakens over time
- Attention shifts subtly

- Affection fades unnoticeably
- Connection erodes imperceptibly

Does that make sense? You see, drift happens gradually.

**[Illustration]** - It's like when people go to the beach. They set their stuff up, then they walk straight out into the water from their stuff. Float, swim, wade, splash, toss a ball or a frisbee. Pretty soon they turn and look back to shore and can't see their stuff, they are totally disoriented. Without ever realizing it, the current has slowly moved them 50 or 100 yards down the beach. And they have to fight the current to get back to where they were or get out of the water and walk back.

The same thing happens spiritually. We don't usually wake up one morning rejecting God outright. We slowly stop:

- listening
- worshiping
- praying
- remembering
- depending

**[Application]** - I think it's safe to say, one of the most dangerous spiritual conditions isn't outright rebellion—it's slow forgetfulness.

Think about this with me...take a little personal inventory:

- In your life, have other voices become louder than God's? We talked about this a few weeks ago. They may not be evil voices, but they are distracting voices that cause you to lose your focus.
- Have you become spiritually distracted with all the "noise" in your life?
- Has your comfort/his blessings in you life, reduced your dependence on God?

We must always keep in mind *what we stop remembering, we eventually stop valuing.*

**[Transition]** -Now, having issued this accusation about forgetting God and pronouncing the discipline that will come because of it, Moses

pronounces a blessing on each tribe. In Deuteronomy 33, Moses blesses each tribe individually. We're not going to read this whole section; I just want to make a few observations.

Though each blessing is unique, together they communicate one central truth:

- God sees his people
- God guides his people
- He provides for His people
- Fights for his people
- And he will remain with his people as they enter the future.

### **3. Despite their failures, God blesses them still.**

What we see here is Moses' final words are not words of fear, but blessing. After years of wandering, failure, discipline, and growth, Moses reminds Israel that they are still a people loved by God, carried by God, and sustained by God."

I don't want you to miss what this is teaching us...their ultimate security would never come from their own strength, but only from the everlasting arms of God beneath them. Friends...this is HUGE.

This is so true for us. Our ultimate security will never come from our own strength, but from the everlasting arms of God beneath us.

Here's how the Prophet Isaiah says it in Isaiah 46: 3-4, *"Listen to me...you whom I have upheld since your birth, and have carried since you were born. Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you, I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you."*

The Apostle Paul says it this way, *"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* - Philippians 1:6

I think it's safe to say, the story of Israel is ultimately not a story about the greatness of Israel. It is a story about the relentless faithfulness of God—carrying, sustaining, correcting, and preserving his people generation after generation. That is such a reassuring truth.

**[Transition]** - Now, we come to the final scene of the book in chapter 34, where we learn another important lesson. God's mission continues beyond any one leader. Read verses 1-9.

#### **4. God's mission continues beyond any one leader**

This is one of the most emotional moments in the Old Testament.

Moses—the great leader of Israel—is about to die. The man who:

- Confronted Pharaoh
- Led the Exodus
- Received the Law
- Shepherded Israel for 40 years now stands on Mount Nebo.

He sees the Promised Land...but does not enter it. Then he dies. BUT... the story keeps going. And the message for us lands kind of soberly: God's work is bigger than any single servant. *And though God buries his servant, his purposes never die.*

**[Illustration]** - The reality is, the Christian life is much more like a relay race than a solo sprint. Faithful runners carry the baton for a season... then hand it off. Moses carried the baton. Now Joshua will carry it. And one day someone else will carry it after him. It reminds us afresh: *The mission belongs to God—not to any one person.*

**[Application]** - This reality rings true in parenting, aging, legacy, mortality, and every life and leadership transition. And every generation must decide:

Will we faithfully carry the baton we've received?

**[Transition]** - Now, as I've said before much of Deuteronomy points to the one who will lead and shepherd like Moses but be even greater. Look at verses 10-12.

Deuteronomy ends with these words: “No prophet has arisen in Israel like Moses...” That statement creates anticipation. It leaves us asking: Will another prophet like Moses ever come? And the answer is yes.

A few different times Deuteronomy reminded us, Moses was great—but he pointed to someone greater. And centuries later, another deliverer would stand on another mountain. Not Mount Nebo—but Calvary. And unlike Moses, Jesus would not merely look at the promise from a distance. Through His death and resurrection, he would secure it for His people forever.

### **Conclusion-**

Here’s what I think we need to hold onto as we wrap up this series in Deuteronomy. *The God who was faithful then remains faithful now.*

Israel is standing on the edge of a new chapter.

- Moses is gone.  
Joshua will lead.  
The future is uncertain.

But the central truth remains: God is still with them despite their failures.

**[Illustration]** - Every morning the sun rises again. Not because we control it. Not because we earned it. But because God sustains it faithfully. Generation after generation, God remains dependable.

So, when leaders fail...when seasons change...when life feels uncertain... Remember: *The God who was faithful then is faithful still!!*

### **Series Conclusion:**

We’ve been calling our series *Remember and Renew*. Over these past eight weeks, Deuteronomy has helped us remember some vital truths.

Let’s review them together and say them out loud together. Andrew... stack these one by one on one slide as we say them together.

We have learned to:

- Remember God's faithfulness
- Love him wholeheartedly
- Guard against spiritual drift
- Choose obedience and life
- Reflect his justice and compassion
- Listen to the voice of Christ
- Return to him when you fail
- Trust that his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Having been called to remember these important truths, Moses' messages now call us to renew our resolve to follow God wholeheartedly.

Let me suggest four practical ways to renew our resolve to follow wholeheartedly:

### **1. Trust God beyond changing seasons**

Try to avoid putting your trust in the stability of life. Put your trust in the God who remains steady when life isn't. Try to remember: Seasons change. God never does."

### **2. Build your life on God's character, not human stability**

Seek to build your life on what is eternal, not what is temporary. Because, when your foundation is God's character, you can stand firm even when the world feels unstable."

### **3. Pass faith to the next generation**

Keep in mind, faith cannot be inherited automatically. It must be intentionally passed down. So, parents...grandparents...church family: We are shaping the spiritual future of the next generation right now.

Let's seek to leave the next generation more than just possessions or success. Let's try to leave them a spiritual legacy. I think one of the greatest gifts we can give the next generation is a life that genuinely walks with God.

#### **4. Anchor your hope in Christ**

And at the end of this series, this is where our hope must rest: In Christ.

- Not in ourselves.
- Not in our performance.
- Not in human leaders.

But in Christ alone. Don't merely admire Jesus. Open your heart to him. Trust him. Follow Him. Build your life on Him.