

Remember, but Forget  
June 4, 2017

I **SLIDE** Last Week

A) Remember... because

- 1) We remember the old stories to learn, to prepare, and to place our trust in God
- 2) We remember so that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past by turning from God
- 3) We remember so that God remains LORD and does not become a byword
- 4) **Psalm 78:2-3 (NIV)** <sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old-- <sup>3</sup> what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us.

B) **SLIDE** This week

- 1) Remember, but forget
- 2) **Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)** <sup>18</sup> "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.
- 3) So, we are to remember the old stories, but we are to forget the former things
- 4) Contradiction? No
- 5) Word for today? Yes

II **SLIDE** Return to Elijah and Elisha

A) **1 Kings 19:19-20 (NIV)** <sup>19</sup> So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. <sup>20</sup> Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah....

- 1) God used Elijah to confront Ahab, to chastise Israel by bringing a three-year drought, and to defeat the false prophets of Baal
- 2) Now, God will use Elijah to train and raise up Elisha

B) **SLIDE** Now, the two generations come together

- 1) Elijah says nothing to Elisha; instead, he simply places his cloak around Elisha's shoulders
- 2) Elisha understands that God, not Elijah, is calling him
- 3) So, Elisha leaves and follows Elijah
- 4) For at least four years, Elisha follows and serves Elijah
- 5) Those four years are key to Elisha's development
- 6) What happened in those four years?

### III **SLIDE** Remember, but forget

A) **Psalm 78:2-4, 7 (NIV)** <sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old-- <sup>3</sup> what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. <sup>4</sup> We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. <sup>7</sup> Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

- 1) We are to tell the generations all that we have heard and know to be true.
- 2) We are to do this so that future generations will not turn from God and make the same mistakes Israel and other nations, including the US, have made.
- 3) We tell the old stories so the generations will put their trust in God and not become rebellious
- 4) We tell the old stories so the generations will not perish for lack of knowledge
- 5) I believe this is how Elijah taught Elisha

B) **SLIDE Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)** <sup>18</sup> "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. <sup>19</sup> See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

- 1) This verse seems to contradict what Psalm 78 tells us
- 2) Tell the generations the stories from old
- 3) Tell the generations to forget the former things

- 4) However, we know the scriptures cannot contradict themselves
- 5) So, the truth involves both
- C) **SLIDE** Remember, but do not dwell on the past
  - 1) The psalmist tells us to remember
  - 2) Isaiah tells us not to dwell on the past.
  - 3) We are to remember the former things so that we can learn about God and His word, so that we do not make the same mistakes as those in the past, so that we will put our faith and trust in God and not in man or in this world, and so that we will not turn from God's wisdom and truth to the world's wisdom and truth.
  - 4) **SLIDE** However, we are not to dwell on the past so that we yearn for the past and forget the future.
  - 5) We are not to dwell on the "good old days" because God is doing a new thing.
  - 6) We are to remember the Exodus, but we are not to dwell on it because God is doing a new work that will be greater than anything yet seen.
  - 7) The first Passover was an amazing event; the Passover with Jesus as the Lamb of God was even greater
  - 8) As great as those "old stores" were, what God has prepared for the next generations will be far greater: the restoration of Israel, the redemption of His people, the purifying of His Church, and the second coming of Jesus.
- D) **SLIDE** This new thing will spring up like a flower or a plant.
  - 1) This means that it has already been planted.
  - 2) It is growing even though we cannot see it. It is maturing.
  - 3) Can we not see it?
  - 4) "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1).
  - 5) One day it will spring forth.

- 6) Will we be ready? Will we be ready when God clears a way through the wasteland? Will we be ready when the desert blooms?

E) **SLIDE** To be ready...

- 1) we are to learn from the past, but we are not to live in the past.
- 2) We are part of the world, but we are not to yearn for the "good old days" because the "present days" are going to become "better old days" for the next generation.
- 3) Elisha was to learn from Elijah
- 4) But Elisha was going to face different battles, encounter new obstacles, and go further (spiritually)
- 5) All of this is happening. New challenges. New miracles.

IV Example

- 1) Elijah and the prophets of Baal (**1 Kings 18**)
- 2) Elijah vs. 450 prophets of Baal, a true spiritual battle
- 3) Prophets of Baal called on their gods
- 4) Elijah called on God, and God answered.
- 5) A true good vs. evil battle
- 6) A battle for the soul of Israel
- 7) We need to remember this story so we can learn to fight today

B) Today

- 1) Singer Lana Del Rey joined with witches from all over the world to cast a spell on President Trump
- 2) They cast spells on Feb. 24, March 26, April 24, and May 23
- 3) Diana Wagman, an author, joined one of these gatherings
- 4) She stated, "I don't believe in the devil, but I do believe our country has gone to hell, and I am willing to try anything to save us."
- 5) She also wrote, "Spells, meditation, mindfulness, the om's I say in yoga, the prayers my Episcopalian family send my way — I don't see any difference. It's the power of positive thinking, or it's like visualizing a job interview or a tennis match beforehand so it will

go well. It's all about conviction, about concentrating and believing, with all your heart, that you can make a difference.

The Bible tells us so. Matthew 21:22 : "And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, *if you have faith.*"

- 6) In response, the Christian Nationalist Alliance called for a day of prayer on each of these days
- 7) Did you know that?
- 8) Jennifer LeClair, senior editor of Charisma magazine: Whether or not you like Trump, I think we can all agree we don't want the ruler of the free world getting attacked with curse, hexes, vexes and spells. So let's keep praying for Trump, and thwart the witches' plans.
- 9) Celebrities
  - a) Madonna wanted to blow up the White House
  - b) Don Cheadle tweeted that he hoped Trump would die in a grease fire.
  - c) Charlie Sheen tweeted, "Dear God; Trump next, please." (Following the death of Carrie Fisher.)
  - d) Micky Rourke ranted that he wanted to beat the President with a baseball bat.
  - e) This week, Kathy Griffin held up a bloody Trump head as if Trump had been beheaded
- 10) Elijah had his spiritual battle for the soul of his nation
- 11) We remember that battle to learn
- 12) However, we are in our own spiritual battle for the soul of our nation
- 13) This battle will take the Eiljahs and Elishas and the Naomis and Ruths to walk together and the Mordecais and Esthers working together.