



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – May 10, 2022

The Lord be with you.

Imagine with me for a moment.

Imagine that you are climbing, making your way of a 12000-foot mountain peak, and you've got a ways to go yet, and your legs are feeling like jello and you're exhausted, not sure if you can even go on. What do you do? Well, I want to suggest that rather than looking at the high mountain before you, that you take some time to look behind you, to look back from where you have come to look back, and to remember.

I do not know the mountain that you're facing today, it might be a mountain a financial woah, a mountain of work to get done. A mountain of medical problems. I want to ask you to take some time to look back and to remember...

With Bible in hand, I'm looking at the Old Testament Book of Deuteronomy chapter 8, where it is 40 years after God has redeemed Israel out of the bondage of Egypt. 40 years of God leading the Israelites through the wilderness, providing for and caring for them. They are poised now on the border of the land of Canaan, where they are going to encounter great armies and mighty walled cities. And God says to the Israelites in Deuteronomy chapter 8 versus 1 and 2, where I read, so that you may live and increase and go in and occupy the land that the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors. Remember, remember the long way, but the Lord your God has led you these 40 years in the wilderness.

Now, here is a keyword for you and me as we face a mountain before us, and that keyword is remember. Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you. And you know when I'm feeling discouraged, overwhelmed, I am helped by looking back by remembering the way the Lord has led. Four times in Deuteronomy chapter 8, in the next chapter, God calls on his people not to forget, but to remember... I did a little concordance study today, and I found that the Hebrew word translated here as remember that this word is used over 200 times in the Hebrew scriptures. In fact, I found out the word, remember is used twice as many times as a word to trust and five times more than the word to believe, which tells us a lot about the importance of remembering in the life of faith.

The late Abraham Heschel was a great Jewish philosopher and scholar who wrote a lot about the importance of remembering for the life of faith. Heschel wrote, and I read the essence of faith is memory, to believe is to remember much of what the Bible commands can be comprised in one word, remember. End of quote.



water from rock

Today, God is calling on you and me to remember. To remember what he's done for us, the way that he has led us and care for us.

Now I'm gonna hold my finger here in Deuteronomy chapter 8, and turn in my Bible to the Gospel of Mark, chapter 8. Mark chapter 8, where I begin reading in verse 17, where Jesus says to His disciples, Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not perceive or understand, are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes and fail to see, Do you have ears? And failed to hear. And do you not remember?

Jesus is calling on his disciples simply to remember to remember just a few days before his feeding of the 5000, and here they're worrying about needing bread. Do you not remember? The reason why we named the ministry I represent... The reason why we named it water from rock is because we want to remember. We want to remember that in the desert wilderness of the life, where there is no water, God brings forth water for his people out of a dry desert rock. It is important for us to remember what God has done for us in the past, as it helps us to move into the future with confidence. It helps to remember like John Newton remembered in his great hymn through many dangerous toils and snares I have already come. Twas grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me.

As I close today, you might wanna take some time to remember. It might have even helped to take a pencil and paper in hand to remember. To remember the times God's presence was especially real to you. Do you remember the times that God led you? The times that God provided for you. To remember the times that you saw God answer prayer in an amazing way.

Remember the long way, that the Lord your God has led you.

O God, our help in ages passed, our hope for years to come. Be thou our guard while life shall last and our eternal home.

I am Tim Smith to fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.