

God's Gracious Memory

Nov 28, 2021 • 2 Kings 20:1-11



I. O Lord remember this, don't remember that.

The Christian life is a long _____ in the same direction.

II. God remembers neither this nor that.

God remembers his _____.

God remembers his _____.

God sees Hezekiah's _____.

Hitting Home

What from Sunday's sermon stood out to you the most? Why?

Where You Live

In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.

When you consider the origins of Thanksgiving, what do you think the settlers and Indians were most thankful for? And why?

What strikes you as unusual that Lincoln would declare Thanksgiving a national holiday during the Civil War?

Many consider the Civil War to be the darkest hour in the history of the United States. The financial cost of the war was crippling. The emotional toll of a war of a nation against itself was unbelievable. But the death toll has been recently revised by some historians to be more than 850,000. That is 2% of the population then. In today's population, that would be 6.6 million deaths! In the midst of that, Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday.

Digging Deeper

Hezekiah almost died. Isaiah showed up and told him that he would "die and not recover." He turned his face to the wall and begged God for his own life. As you know from Sunday's sermon, God heard his cries and spared his life for 15 years. Isaiah 38 records Hezekiah's song, his poem, he wrote as a response to God's faithfulness.

Read Isaiah 38:10-20. The poem is divided into two sections. Each section begins with the same word, but the tense is different. Underline the words that begin the first section.

[10] I said, In the middle of my days I must depart; I am consigned to the gates of Sheol for the rest of my years [11] I said, I shall not see the LORD, the LORD in the land of the living; I shall look on man no more among the inhabitants of the world. [12] My dwelling is plucked up and removed from me like a shepherd's tent; like a weaver I have rolled up my life; he cuts me off from the loom; from day to night you bring me to an end; [13] I calmed myself until morning; like a lion he breaks all my bones; from day to night you bring me to an end. [14] Like a swallow or a crane I chirp; I moan like a dove. My eyes are weary with looking upward. O Lord, I am oppressed; be my pledge of safety!

[15] What shall I say? For he has spoken to me, and he himself has done it. I walk slowly all my years because of the bitterness of my soul. [16] O Lord, by these things men live, and in all these is the life of my spirit. Oh restore me to health and make me live! [17] Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back. [18] For Sheol does not thank you; death does not praise you; those who go down to the pit do not hope for your faithfulness. [19] The living, the living, he thanks you, as I do this day; the father makes known to the children your faithfulness. [20] The LORD will save me, and we will play my music on stringed instruments all the days of our lives, at the house of the LORD. (ESV)

In Hezekiah's poem, you'll see that the first half of it is written about Hezekiah's illness. **Hezekiah vividly described his plight using four similes: circle them.** Now let's unpack them.

What is the common sense meaning of a shepherd's tent? A weaver finishing a weaving project? God pictured as a lion breaking bones? Hezekiah moaning like a dove and chirping like a crane or swallow? Discuss these. This was Hezekiah's own description of his life in his illness.

Now write your own poem...okay so that's a stretch...but choose a simile or metaphor to describe your life before Christ.

The tense changes in the second half of the poem. Hezekiah has heard from God, through Isaiah, and he has hope. God has cast his sins behind his back! What a glorious thought.

Look at verse 19. What is Hezekiah's response?

Hezekiah not only thanks God. He tells his children what God has done for him. And then he sings.

Now, use a metaphor, a word picture, to describe your life after coming to faith in Jesus.

Taking it Home

For many of you, this will be the last week you meet for Life Group until the Winter Quarter in January. If that is the case (or even if it isn't), how will you keep up with one another during the holidays?

Here are a couple of recommendations: If you're a group of both men and women, set up a text thread for the men and one for the women. Make your text threads accomplish two purposes: pray and praise. Share prayer requests, hold one another accountable, and praise God!

Don't forget Whose Your One. Who knows? Someone you know may have their own personal resurrection story, their own account of going from death to life to celebrate this Christmas!

Share your "Ones" with Each Other for Prayer