



Sermon, Sunday August 28, 2022 “A Call to Remember and Obey”

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 8:1-10 ¹The entire commandment that I command you today you must diligently observe, so that you may live and increase and go in and occupy the land that the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors. ²Remember the long way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. ³He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴The clothes on your back did not wear out, and your feet did not swell these forty years. ⁵Know, then, in your heart that, as a parent disciplines a child, so the LORD your God disciplines you. ⁶Therefore keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey, ⁹a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. ¹⁰You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

Introduction: Christians are people who see the world by faith.

Dear brothers and sisters!

The long summer is over, and autumn is here. Time goes by fast. It is a time to realize the preciousness of the time we have been given. Please spend the time given to us without regrets and meaningfully. Also, I hope that you will be able to reflect on the meaning of life and gain comfort and strength through the Lord's words to 'remember and obey' in today's text.

The Lord we believe in is always good. **So, David said in Psalm 23:1-3; “The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.”**

But sometimes the Lord also leads us into the wilderness. **In verse 2 of today's text, Moses tells the Israelites; "Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness."** The Lord led the Israelites through a wilderness where they could not live without water and could not grow grain, and it was too hot during the day and too cold at night. It also made them spend 40 years there, which is a long time!

The meaning of life in the wilderness, where the Israelites lived for 40 years, cannot be understood unless we see them through the eyes of faith. Likewise, we cannot fully understand the meaning of hardships we face unless we see them with the eyes of faith. The Lord wanted the people of Israel to have faith in all circumstances because they could not walk with the Lord without faith.

So, through Moses, the Lord commands the Israelites to remember their sufferings in the wilderness and to live as a people who obey the Lord's will. It also tells what the Lord's purpose was to lead the Israelites into the wilderness.

Body: The Lord's Purpose to Lead the Israelites into the Wilderness



Let us see today's text Deuteronomy 8:2-3. "Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. (v.2) He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. (v.3)"

The lesson we can learn from this verse is that to walk with the Lord by seeing the world through the eyes of faith, we must have a humble heart toward the Lord. If we are humble, we can acknowledge and accept the word of the Bible as the word of the Lord. Also, we need to be humble so that the Holy Spirit can work with us.

So, the Lord wanted to test the people of Israel, so that their faith might be strengthened. And the Lord wants to test us so that our faith will also be established.

In today's text, the Lord's test for the people of Israel was twofold. The Lord first looked at the heart of the people of Israel toward the Lord during their suffering. And during suffering, the Lord looked to see if the people of Israel obeyed the word of the Lord.

1. The Lord examines the hearts of the people of Israel in their suffering.

Many people's hearts become clear when they are in trouble. When there are no problems in our lives, we are more likely to be generous with our neighbors. Of course, not everyone is like that. On the other hand, when our lives are in affliction, we complain or become anxious. Because people have weak bodies, they are easily discouraged when difficulties arise.

What is the difference between Christians and non-Christians when difficulties arise? It is whether or not you rely on the Lord by faith when you are in trouble. This is a very simple principle, but whether we rely on the Lord or not gives us radically different results.

When we depend on the Lord, the Lord begins to work for us. And when the Lord begins to work for us, our hearts rest in Him. **So, in Philippians 4:12-13, the Apostle Paul said, "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. (v.12) I can do everything through him who gives me strength (v.13)"** he confesses.

Therefore, what a Christian need is a heart of reliance on the Lord for all things in ordinary life. This kind of heart is faith. We must have this belief.

Please remember Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

What is the Lord's other test for the Israelites?

2. The Lord sees whether the people of Israel in their suffering are obeying the word of the Lord.

Faith is the desire to depend on the Lord. And if we have a heart to depend on the Lord, we will obey His word.

In today's text, the Lord proclaims the following words to the Israelites through Moses; **"He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." (Deuteronomy 8:3)**



In Luke 16:19-31, there is a parable about the rich man and the beggar Lazarus. When the rich man and Lazarus both die, the rich man goes to hell and Lazarus goes to Abraham's side (paradise). In the torments of hell, the rich man pleads with Abraham to let his family know what the death of an unbeliever is like so that his family will not experience the pain he is experiencing.

But Abraham said to the rich man; **"If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."** (Luke 16:31).

However, in the parable 'rich man and beggar Lazarus' of Luke, the name of the rich man does not appear, but the name of the beggar Lazarus does appear. The meaning of Lazarus' name is **"God will help."**

In this parable, Jesus gives the rich man no name, while giving only Lazarus a meaningful name, showing us what Lazarus clearly had and what the rich man did not have. In other words, Lazarus was a man who depended entirely on **'God's help'**. On the other hand, the rich man did not have the heart to depend on God because of the wealth he possessed.

The **'parable of the rich man and the beggar Lazarus'** in Luke's Gospel and the verse in Deuteronomy 8:3, "You understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord", clearly shows what it means to be obedient.

In many cases, we assume that money, clothes, food, and home that we can see will ensure our safety. But the Bible makes it clear that the word of the Lord's promises to us will ensure our safety.

Now let me ask you, what do you think ensures your safety? I hope that we all depend on and follow Jesus, who achieves eternal life through obedience to the Word.

Conclusion: The true hope of life is found in Jesus Christ.

Now let's summarize today's sermon. Our life is full of joy, but it is also a series of hardships. But Christians are people who can find true joy during suffering.

So, the Lord has given us life, and He wants us to enjoy the joy of life.

Therefore, I hope that we will not waste the life that has been given to us. The time we are given in this life is not eternal. May our lives be blessed with the abundance of the Lord.

Please remember. The word of the Lord does not lead our lives into complicated places. Instead, the word of the Lord gives hope and courage to our lives. May we live each day wisely to determine what we value the most. And I wish you the blessing of realizing the truth that the true hope of our lives is only in the Lord.

Amen!

