

The Danger of Forgetting God

Deuteronomy 8:7-20

1. The Danger of Distraction vs. 12-14

“Lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage”

We can become distracted from the One who blesses by the blessings themselves. We can become so busy enjoying our stuff, our homes, our cars, our money – even our families – that we forget the source of these blessings. And we neglect to give thanks to our Father from whom every good and perfect gift comes down.

It’s not always that we consciously choose to engage in defiant sin against God; it’s that we have our focus on other things instead of God – and that in itself is a sin against God.

2. The Danger of Disobedience vs. 11

“Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God *by not keeping* His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes...”

Disobedience is the essence of forgetting God, the expression of it. Remember that there are sins we commit against God (sins of commission) but there are also sins of omission, the things we’ve left undone.

By not keeping:

- God’s commandments: God’s foundational principles for living.
- Judgments: God’s rulings on how to handle specific life situations.
- Statutes: Laws of religious observance.

On this last one, *statutes*: This word refers to God’s commands concerning our worship. It’s not a matter of the ways we feel comfortable expressing our worship or our “preferred worship style.” God has a right to tell us how He wants to be worshipped.

3. The Danger of Deception vs. 13-17

Vs. 13-14 “and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God...”

Selective Memory – Forgetting:

- *Who brought you out*
- *Who led you through*
- *Who fed you in*

Vs. 14 “*Who brought you out* of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage”

- While we shouldn’t wallow in shame and regret over forgiven sin, there is still value in remembering what it was like to be lost.

Vs. 15 “*Who led you through* that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock”

- You may be in a wilderness experience now, or have just come out of such an experience. A health crisis, a family crisis, or such. It is good to remember how the Lord who saw us through that long season.

Vs. 16 “*Who fed you in* the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end”

- Manna, the “whatchamacallit” food that coming daily from God taught them daily dependence.
- It was designed to keep them humble, relying on God instead of feeling self-sufficient.
- It was a test to train them against complaining or trying to take matters into their own hands.

Vs. 17 “Then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’

- This is the great lie, “I Did It My Way.”
- “My power... my hand have gained me this wealth”

4. The Danger of Displacement vs. 19

“Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and *follow other gods*, and *serve them* and *worship them*, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.”

- Follow them: The basis on which you pattern your behavior
- Serve them: That on which you expend your best efforts
- Worship them: That which you consider bigger than yourself

Thus, the one true God is displaced in our lives, with other gods receiving the religious devotion that rightfully belongs to Him.

Conclusion: We Must Guard Our Hearts

This requires a conscious and deliberate choice on our part. Two verses in the passage describe this:

Vs. 10 “When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.”

Vs. 18 “And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth...”