

What God Has Done

In a busy world full of distraction and uncertainty, we tend to focus on the here and now, and we worry about what's next. We pray for today and tomorrow, but forget to thank God for yesterday. But when we remember what He's already said and done, we'll find hope for our present and future.



INTRODUCTION

Pastor Nathan talked about the importance of remembering things God has provided for us and the ways he has protected us.

STARTER QUESTION

1. In general, why do we need to remember important things? What are some things in your life that are most important for you to remember? Do you think you could ever forget those things?

INTO THE WORD

2. Pastor Nathan referred to Psalm 78 during this morning's lesson and reminded us that it's important to share the history of what God has done with the future generations. Read Psalm 78:1-8. What specific reasons does it give us for sharing God's history with others and passing it down to future generations?
3. The author of Psalm 78, Asaph, charges the Israelites in verse 7 to 'not forget the works of God.' Think for a few minutes about other passages of scripture where people referenced in those times are encouraged not to forget. What comes to mind? Who comes to mind? Why do you think that God reinforces this throughout the story of scripture?
4. Reread Psalms 78:13-16. How does the author describe God's provision in these verses? Read Romans 8:32, Matthew 6:31-32, and 2 Corinthians 9:8. How do these New Testament verses enrich our understanding of how God provides for His people? Are these authors describing God's provision in new or different ways? How have you seen God provide for you, either materially or spiritually?

APPLICATION

5. During today's sermon, Pastor Nathan reminded us to remember God's provision (Psalm 78:13-16), God's protection (Psalm 78:52-54), and God's Plan (Psalm 78:70-72). While experiencing life's challenges, how can we remember that everything being experienced is all part of God's plan for our lives? What other biblical examples can we find to remind us that we are under God's protection? How can we really know that God has a plan for our lives? What provisions has God given within the past week for which you are grateful?
6. Have you had the experience of thinking a provision was from God, only to realize it wasn't? How was your faith hurt because of this mistake? How can we discern what God wants from us instead of what we want disguised as God's plan? Are there verses that stick out that you can test these desires against?
7. Take some time this week and create some way to document a point in your life (or multiple points) that God without a doubt provided or protected you.

PRAYER

Father, Your way is perfect and please forgive us for so easily trying to take control of the story that You are writing on our lives and in this world. Your ways are higher than our ways, and You do not make mistakes. You are constantly working for Your glory and for our good. Father, I pray that you would help us to remember all that You have done, are doing and will do in the weeks, months, and years ahead. We need you. You are the best thing that we have. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

SUGGESTED ANSWER GUIDE / MORE FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOR SELECTED QUESTIONS:

In reference to question 2:

Even in parenting, I share with my children mistakes I made in my youth, in hopes of sparing them from making those same mistakes. However, I believe Psalm 78:7-8 best answer this question, we need to share this information with others so that they will have a reason to put their trust in God, know what HE's done and keep his commandments. If we don't share what HE's done for us, then others won't know who HE is, what HE's done or why they should worship or believe in HIM.

Per David Guzik's "Psalm 78-Learning God's Faithfulness to His Rebellious People", he mentions the following: "[Psalm 78](#) is the longest of the historical psalms. Its lesson is that history must not repeat itself. The people must never again be unbelieving." (James Montgomery Boice).

Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD: Asaph knew what followed in this psalm came from events and themes received from their **fathers**. He also knew that what they had received, they had to pass on to the next **generation**; they had a responsibility to **not hide them from their children**.

In reference to question 3:

Some may cite Joshua 4. Other verses that apply would be Psalm 103:2-5 and Deuteronomy 8:11.

Some version of the word 'remember' appears over 300 times in the King James Version.

In reference to question 5:

In Psalm 78:13-16, scripture gives us concrete examples of God's provisions for the Israelites as he led them out of Egypt to the promised land. In our own lives, God comes through for us every day. He provides food, clothing, shelter (our needs). He also gives us our wants, too (technology, transportation, etc.).

In Daniel P. Clark's article "God's provision", he reminds us of several scriptures where God tells us we automatically don't have to worry about necessities because he already has those covered for us. One of those scriptures is Matthew 6: 25-34. As you read Matthew 6:25-34, it reminds us that God knows what we need and it tells us to "seek first the kingdom of God and HIS righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you".

Suggested Readings: Mark 11: 22-24, Matthew 21: 21-22, 1 John 5:14-15, and Jeremiah 29:11.

In reference to question 6:

These are some questions I would be asking myself if I was faced with a desire or decision and trying to figure out if it was from God:

Am I praying to God about this choice and waiting for the Spirit's prompting? Am I in Scripture so I can better recognize God's character and will? Does this desire or decision go against God's character? Am I aware of the circumstances surrounding me at the time? Is a door opening or closing? Is there anything from my past preventing me from being open to any answer? Am I consulting wise counsel? Am I willing to trust God when He makes His answer known, or do I keep seeking out new answers to get the one I want instead? Spending time answering and reflecting on these questions should help give me the correct path forward.

In reference to question 7:

Example - Take a large vase and place it in your home where you will see it consistently. Buy smooth river rocks from your local hardware store and use permanent marker to document what God has done on the rock. Place the rock in the vase and then stay sensitive to God moving in your life and document it as you go. Maybe one day you can take all of the rocks out of the vase and share with family and friends all that God has done.