

THEY SOON FORGOT

Text: Psalm 106:7-13

INTRO: Ingratitude & the forgetfulness that comes with it is almost the national story of Israel. The book of Judges is replete with examples similar to our text. But the tragedy to us is that such an attitude was not limited to ancient Israel. It is a problem that virtually all of us have to deal with in our own lives. What a tragedy. They soon forgot!

I. PHARAOH'S BUTLER FORGOT JOSEPH.

READ GEN 40:9-14, 23

II. THE "FORGETFULNESS" OF JAPAN.

A. Sept. 1, 1923, Japan was ravaged by a devastating earthquake. It began at 11:38 A.M. & continued for over 3 1/2 hours. 143,000 were killed & 100,000 maimed in the streets of Yokohama.

B. Our nation was sympathetic. In a few hours an entire convoy of ships was on the sea loaded with medical supplies for Japan. Over \$10 million in cash was sent in addition to medical supplies, etc.

C. Shortly afterward a 5-word telegram was received at the White House signed by the Emperor of Japan:
"America, we will not forget!"

D. On Dec. 7, 1941 at day break Pear Harbor Naval Base in Hawaii was bombed by Japanese military planes. 2,800 young American servicemen were killed. Millions of dollars worth of damage was done to the American fleet. Only 18 years had passed since the great earthquake--but Japan had "forgotten."

III. FORGETFULNESS OF THE CLEANSED LEPERS,

LUKE 17:12-19.

IV. BUT WHAT ABOUT OURSELVES? Too often our attitude toward God seems to be "What have You done for me lately?" Among the many blessings God has given to us, let us look briefly at a few.

- A. God created for man an orderly universe.
Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seeds & the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself on the earth," & it was so. (Genesis 1:11).
- B. In the process of time, God sent His Son to be a sacrifice for human sin. John 3:16; Rom. 5:8
- C. He has revealed & protected His word so we may know how to live meaningful lives.

Thru Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. (Psalm 119:104).

2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3
- D. God has given us the home/family relationship & thru it, our children & grandchildren.

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord: the fruit of the womb is His reward. (Psalm 127:3).

Children's children are the crown of old men; & the glory of children is their father. (Prov. 17:6).
- E. To Christian, God has promised the power to resist temptation. 1 Cor. 10:13.
- F. Numerous blessings are given to all: sunshine, rain, health, prosperity, opportunity... James 1:17
- G. Finally, for the Christian, God has promised an everlasting inheritance in heaven. It is ours, and waiting to be received, if we are willing to meet the conditions God has placed upon the gift.
- H. Too many times we are like the friend who went to his neighbor to borrow something. He assured his neighbor that he would not forget the favor. Sure enough, the next time he was in trouble, he remember his friend

again. Too often, we only think of God when we are in trouble.

CONCLUSION: IF GOD SHOULD GO ON STRIKE

It's just a good thing God above
Has never gone on strike
Because He wasn't treated fair,
For things He didn't like.
If He had ever once sat down
And said, "That's it, I'm through,
I've had enough of those on earth
So this is what I'll do.

"I'll give My orders to the sun:
'Cut off your heat supply,'
And to the moon: 'Give no more light,
And run the oceans dry.'
Then just to make it really tough
And put the pressure on,
Turn off the oxygen and air
Till every breath is gone."

You know that He'd be justified
If fairness were the game,
For no one has been more abused
Or treated with disdain
Than God--and yet He carries on
Supplying you and me
With all the favors of His grace
And everything for free!

Men say they want a better deal
And so, on strike they go,
But what a deal we've given God
To Whom all things we owe.
We don't care who we hurt or harm
To get the things we like.
But what a mess we'd all be in
If God should go on strike.

La Porte, TX, December 9, 1979
Exton, PA, December 7, 1986
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, December 6, 1992
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, December 7, 2003