

THOU HAST LACKED NOTHING

DEUTERONOMY 2

Text: Deuteronomy 2:7

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⁷ For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the LORD thy God *hath been* with thee; thou hast lacked nothing.

Introduction:

We have been considering Fervent Faith, and finishing faithful. One thing that helps us remain faithful is to be grateful.

These people in our passage had much to be grateful for, and Moses in this farewell message reminded them of what they so easily and so oft forgot.

40 years before this day God delivered them from slavery in Egypt, across the Red Sea and set them on course for even better things in the Promise Land, nto far away.

Deuteronomy 1:2-3

² (*There are eleven days' journey* from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadeshbarnea.) ³ And it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first *day* of the month,

that Moses spake unto the children of Israel, according unto all that the LORD had given him in commandment unto them;

These were God people but they quickly forgot His wonderful works, and by focusing on the negative or what they didn't have they began to murmur and complain; not being thankful God allowed them to turn an 11 day journey into 40 years of meandering and mayhem. A whole generation of adults died, and now their children are given another chance.

Moses is now reminding these people to beware lest they too forget the Lord and His goodness.

Deuteronomy 6:12

¹² *Then* beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Moses in this farewell message reminds them of:

1. GOD'S PROVIDENCE – "GOD HAD BLESSED THEM"

Deuteronomy 2:7

⁷ **For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee** in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the LORD thy God *hath been* with thee; thou hast lacked nothing.

- A. God's providence is personal
- B. God's providence is patient

C. God's providence is perfect

Illustration:

It was gratitude that prompted an old man to visit an old broken pier on the eastern seacoast of Florida. Every Friday night, until his death in 1973, he would return, walking slowly and slightly stooped with a large bucket of shrimp. The seagulls would flock to this old man, and he would feed them from his bucket. Many years before, in October, 1942, Captain Eddie Rickenbacker was on a mission in a B-17 to deliver an important message to General Douglas MacArthur in New Guinea. But there was an unexpected detour which would hurl Captain Eddie into the most harrowing adventure of his life.

Somewhere over the South Pacific the Flying Fortress became lost beyond the reach of radio. Fuel ran dangerously low, so the men abandoned their plane for the ocean. For nearly a month Captain Eddie and his companions would fight the water, the weather, and the scorching sun. They spent many sleepless nights recoiling as giant sharks rammed their rafts.

But of all their enemies at sea, one proved most formidable—starvation. Eight days out, their rations were long gone or destroyed by the salt water. It would take a miracle to sustain them. And a miracle occurred. Captain Rickenbacker said, "Something landed on my

head. I knew that it was a seagull. I don't know how I knew, I just knew. Everyone else knew too. No one said a word, but peering out from under my hat brim without moving my head, I could see the expression on their faces. They were staring at that gull. The gull meant food if I could catch it."

Captain Eddie caught the gull. They consumed most of it, and the rest was used for bait to catch fish. The survivors were sustained and their hopes renewed because a lone sea gull, uncharacteristically hundreds of miles from land, became a sacrifice.

Captain Eddy never forgot, because every Friday evening, about sunset, he would visit that pier to remember the seagull, which on a day long past, gave itself without a struggle.

This man was thankful for what that seagull had done for him. To show his thanks, he served those seagulls by bringing them food. If that man was willing to commit the rest of his life to feeding the seagulls, how much more should we commit our lives to Christ? How much more should we serve Him? After all, He saved us not just from an earthly death, but from an eternal death!

- There is no question; God in His Providence has always taken care of you.

- The question is, are we willing to make the same commitment?

2. GOD'S PERCEPTION – "HE KNOWETH"

Deuteronomy 2:7

⁷ For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: **he knoweth** thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the LORD thy God *hath been* with thee; thou hast lacked nothing.

Psalms 103:14

¹⁴ For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we *are* dust.

Psalms 139:1-3

¹ O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known *me*. ² Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. ³ Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted *with* all my ways.

Matthew 6:8

⁸ Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

- God made us and knows us inside and out in His perception.

Illustration:

I read this story the other day:

Two old friends bumped into one another on the street one day. One of them looked as if the sky was falling, almost on the verge of tears. His friend asked, "What

has the world done to you, my old friend?"

The sad fellow said, "Let me tell you. Three weeks ago, an uncle died and left me forty thousand dollars."

"That's a lot of money."

"But, two weeks ago, a cousin I never even knew died, and left me eighty-five thousand free and clear."

"Sounds like you've been blessed..."

"You don't understand!" he interrupted. "Last week my great-aunt passed away. I inherited almost a quarter of a million."

Now he was really confused. "Then, why do you look so glum?" --

"This week... nothing!"

- That's the problem – when we receive things on a regular basis we eventually come to expect it.
- This is the “entitlement mindset” that has permeated America at almost every level.
- We have been blessed to live in a land of plenty and as a result we have become complacent.

Psalms 103:2

² Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Do we have the right perception of God? Do we remember what He has done for us?

3. GOD'S PLAN – "THY WALKING"

Deuteronomy 2:7

⁷ For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth **thy walking** through this great wilderness: these forty years the LORD thy God *hath been* with thee; thou hast lacked nothing.

Psalms 37:23

²³ The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

Illustration:

When devastating floods came to Mozambique in the year 2000, families were separated as they fled from the rising waters. The death toll rose as the floods receded and bodies that had been submerged were discovered. Some counts were in the thousands. One Mozambique minister named Samuel Naftal gave thanks to God and mosquitoes for saving his life.

As Samuel Naftal, along with sixteen other people, clung tightly to the limbs of trees for two days, he began to preach. All of them hoped his preaching would keep them alert to their surroundings. They listened and watched as furniture, televisions, and

dead cows floated by. Then the mosquitoes began swarming around them, repeatedly biting them.

Naftal testified, 'I thank God for those mosquitoes because they kept me from falling asleep. If we had fallen asleep we would have been carried away by the water.' He and the others hung on and were finally able to wade to safety as the waters began to recede.

Psalms 18:30

³⁰ *As for* God, his way *is* perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he *is* a buckler to all those that trust in him.

We may not recognize God's plan at all times, but know this God has a plan and His plan is right.

God's Plan

A. Salvation

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

B. Sanctification = The act of consecrating or of setting apart for a sacred purpose; consecration.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

³ For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: ⁴ That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

C. Sacrifice

Romans 12:1

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

D. Service

Ephesians 6:5-8

⁵ Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; ⁶ Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; ⁷ With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: ⁸ Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether *he be* bond or free.

4. GOD'S PURPOSE – "THROUGH THIS GREAT WILDERNESS"

Deuteronomy 2:7

⁷ For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking **through this great wilderness**: these forty years the LORD thy God *hath been* with thee; thou hast lacked nothing.

Deuteronomy 8:2

² And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, *and* to prove thee, to know what *was* in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

- God’s plan is the vehicle which brings His purpose in our lives.
- He is teaching us all the time and we seem to learn the most in the wilderness.

5. GOD’S PATIENCE – “THESE 40 YEARS”

Deuteronomy 2:7

⁷ For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: **these forty years** the LORD thy God *hath been* with thee; thou hast lacked nothing.

Acts 13:18

¹⁸ And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.

When it comes to patience, God is the ultimate example.

Why does He put up with us?

Why is He still willing to work with and in me?

Someone once said, “To truly be thankful we need to be ‘thankful.’ Think and it won’t take long to see that God has blessed you richly.

6. GOD'S PRESENCE – “PILLAR OF CLOUD AND FIRE”

We should be grateful for His presence.

Matthew 28:20

²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Hebrews 13:5

⁵*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

7. GOD'S PROVISION – “THOU HAST LACKED NOTHING”

Deuteronomy 2:7

⁷For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the LORD thy God *hath been* with thee; **thou hast lacked nothing.**

Deuteronomy 8:4

⁴Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.

Psalms 34:10

¹⁰The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good *thing*.

Are we thankful?

Close:

I close with this story.

The sun had just risen on a hot August day in 1944, in the small village of Plelo, in German-occupied France. The fifteen-year-old boy did not know why he and the other citizens of had been lined up before a firing squad in the middle of the town square. Perhaps they were being punished for harboring a unit of the French underground freedom fighters. All the boy knew was that he was about to die.

As he stood before the firing squad, maybe he thought back to the carefree days of his early childhood, before the war. Perhaps he thought of all he would miss by never growing up. Most of all he was probably terrified of dying.

Suddenly, the boy heard the sound of exploding mortar shells beyond the limits of his little village. Quickly rolling tanks could also be heard. The Germans were forced to abandon the firing squad and face a small unit of U.S. tanks with twenty GI's led by Bob Hamsley, a corporal in Patton's Third Army. A Marquisard captain had asked Hamsley for help. After three hours, fifty Nazis were dead, and the other fifty were taken prisoner.

In 1990, the town of Plelo honored Bob Hamsley on the very spot where dozens of the town's citizens would have died if not for him. The man who initiated the search for Hamsley to honor him in that ceremony was the former mayor of Plelo, that same fifteen-year-old boy. He was grateful for Hamsley who had risked his own life to save his and many others' and now as a grown man had determined to find and honor him.

When you are truly thankful for what someone has done for you, you will desire to express that thanks to them.

That was Moses' message to God's people.

Years ago, a much greater sacrifice was made willingly for you and for me. Are you thankful for what Christ did for you on Calvary? How often do you thank Him for His sacrifice?