

■ Luke 1 - "Remember to Prepare"

Key Thought/Action: Remember; God is at work even when it's hard to believe. Prepare ... to believe and participate.

Welcome/Prayer:

Review:

(after Intro)

Intro:

Reminders

■ **Jill Price has an extraordinary memory that has stunned scientists.** In 2006, her overdeveloped memory was described in a scientific journal article, "A Case of Unusual Autobiographical Remembering." Price has no special aptitude for memorizing lists of words, numbers, facts, or languages. But she does remember what happened to her on any given day over the last 30 years. Name any date and Price will tell you what day of the week it was, the weather, what she had for breakfast, the TV programs she watched, and the people she spoke with.

Few of us have a memory like that. That's why we need reminders to complete simple tasks and keep our appointments. This is especially true when it comes to spiritual truth. The apostle Peter showed he understood the need of spiritual reminders when he wrote: "I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things Yes, I think it is right . . . to stir you up by reminding you Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things" (2 Peter 1:12-15).

No matter what kind of memory we have, we need to be reminded of biblical principles. Daily Bible reading, small group studies, and involvement in a local church can all help us to remember God's vital truths.

By: Dennis Fisher

Remembering the Word of God
Does not come naturally;
We need reminders to fulfill
What God wants us to be. —Sper

Let God's Word fill your memory, rule your heart, and guide your steps.

Review:

Even before the 400 years of "silence" between the Old and New Testament that Steve spoke about last week, God was preparing for His coming

Scripture:

■ Isaiah 40:3

A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

■ Malachi 3:1

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. ...

■ Malachi 4:5-6

5 "See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. 6 He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; ...

A voice, a messenger, to prepare the way is coming ... Remember ... get ready

■ Luke 1

1 I myself have carefully investigated everything ...

Read Luke 1:5-25

■ God knew what his plans were with John the Baptist

God knows what his plans are for us.

God hears our prayers and sees our actions.

We are blessed when we respond in belief and obedience

13 But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John."

19 The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news."

20 And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

.....

(very similar to message to Zechariah) 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."

36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail."

God will do what He says. God Never Fails

Jesus Never Fails

Sandy Cove "Jesus Never Fails"

■ In our home ... sometimes I sit and think about that phrase

It doesn't mean God does what I want, or in my time, or the way I want ... sometimes I can sense the enemy or my sinful nature whispering a lie to my heart tempting me to believe that God has indeed failed me ... but He hasn't. Just because my life isn't always playing out like a Christmas Hallmark movie doesn't mean Jesus has failed me. Reminds on the wall (or in other ways) help us to join Him in what He's doing in and around us. God will do what He says, in His time, in His way. Never forget that.

■ Consider ... 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

- “Elijah”: (Jesus speaking about John) Matthew 11:14 And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.
- Hearts to ... : Malachi 4:5-6 5 “See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. 6 He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”
 - Remember ... Prepare ... get ready to join Him in what He’s doing in and around you.

Example/Personal or Others:



Think for a minute about some of the reminders you have in your life ...

Morning alarms (some choose to ignore)

Seasonal reminders seasons (winter’s coming)

Calendars

Other people

Notes by the door, ... in the fridge

■ Sticky notes (John B)

Vehicle gas, oil reminders

String tied around finger

In the mail

Reminders in sports Repetition “Run it again”

■ Oversized Load lead car

Use whatever reminders you can: No matter what kind of memory we have, we need to be reminded of biblical principles. Daily Bible reading, small group studies, and involvement in a local church can all help us to remember God’s vital truths.

Summary:

God knew what his plans were with John the Baptist

God knows what his plans are for us.

God hears our prayers and sees our actions.

We are blessed when we respond in belief and obedience

■ Herod - didn’t believe, resisted

Zechariah - didn’t believe, but then obeyed and believed

Mary - believed and obeyed

Remember; God is at work even when it’s hard to believe. Prepare ... to believe and participate.

Challenge/Application:

■ Remember; God is at work even when it’s hard to believe. (Find ways to remind yourself of that.) Prepare ... to believe and participate.

Prayer:

Next Week:

■ 2019-12-15 - Bishop Carl Sensenig

Let's Read the Bible Together!

(To read in preparation for or following the service.)

Luke 2

Song:

Sharing Time:

Benediction:

Other Resources:

<https://youtu.be/hpTCZ-hO6il>