

First Baptist Church Smiths Falls

November 11, 2018 - Remembrance Day

Scripture Reading: Mark 8:13-21

13 Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side. 14 The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. 15 "Be careful," Jesus warned them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod." 16 They discussed this with one another and said, "It is because we have no bread." 17 Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: "Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? 18 Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember? 19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" "Twelve," they replied. 20 "And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?" They answered, "Seven." 21 He said to them, "Do you still not understand?"

Prayer of Illumination: Congregational & Lord's Prayer:

Our Father Which Art In Heaven Hallowed Be Thy Name Thy Kingdom Come Thy Will Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven Give Us This Day. Our Daily Bread And Forgive Us Our Trespases. As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us. And Lead Us Not into Temptation. But Deliver Us From Evil. For Thine Is The Kingdom. The Power And The Glory. Forever And Ever. Amen

Message: "Lest We Forget"

Introduction:

- On August 4, 1914, Canada, being a part of the British Empire, declared war on Germany. Within three weeks, 45,000 Canadians had joined up. John McCrae was among them, appointed brigade-surgeon to the First Brigade of the Canadian Forces Artillery with the rank of Major. In April of 1915, surrounded by death in the fields of The Somme, McCrae wrote the famous words of the much loved poem, "In Flanders's Fields". Shortly thereafter, he was made chief physician at a hospital in France, but pneumonia took

McCrae's life at age 45 in January of 1918. He is buried close to the fields of Flanders. John McCrae left us all something to remember.

- Years ago a local radio station asked if the children had forgotten about war, and an astonishing 2/3 said that they had. Have we forgotten about war? What else might we have forgotten? What about what is right and wrong? Have we forgotten about God?
- The disciples in Mark 8 had forgotten also - but not the date. They had forgotten what the Lord, Jesus Christ, could, and had already done for them.
- Today, Remembrance Day of 2018, let's take some time to remember the Lord's goodness, "Lest We Forget."

Part 1: Forgotten - Mark 8:13-21

- Do you ever get grumpy when you are hungry? Just a bit? The disciples were in a boat with Jesus. They have only one loaf of bread with them (v. 14). This recorded fact sets the course for the teaching on forgetfulness that Jesus is about to deliver. There is a lot more to this sentence that they forgot bread - they were obviously upset about this fact, and blaming others for this oversight, and perhaps they too were even hungry and grumpy. And so Jesus sees a lesson opportunity. He is the Lord of everything. He has provided food for the hungry, and He has taught lessons of the power and might of God. He has been training the

disciples to look beyond their basic needs to glimpse eternal truths.

- And here they are having a petty grubbing match in the boat. "If you don't stop this right now," my mother would say, "I am going to get your father to pull this car over." We never knew what would happen if the car was ever pulled over, but I remember that threat, and I remember the actions that lead to this with my siblings, so I can only imagine the carrying-on in the boat that day with Jesus.
- And so Jesus starts His lesson (v. 15): "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Herod." Two names were mentioned: The Pharisees who worried about outward appearances, and the Herod who selfishly, murderously protected his power. The message: grow up, boys. You are worried about the wrong thing. The overriding message: focus on Me, said Jesus.
- That went right over their heads (v. 16 - as it would us today), so he continued with a lesson on seeing, understanding, and remembering (vv.17-18). Then He reminds them of the fish and loaves and feeding of the 5000 (v. 19), and then the feeding of the 4000 (v. 20). What was the message that Jesus was giving to His disciples, and also to us? It was simply this: Remember. Remember my goodness. Remember my grace. Remember my love, Remember my power. Remember my lovingkindness. Remember the walk we have been on. Remember the watchcare you have experienced.

They had forgotten. It was time to remember. And that message is for us today.

- Is it true that long ago and far away, we Canadians left our past behind, and we too have forgotten what God has done in our life, just as the disciples had forgotten? Have we forgotten the miracles from the Bible, and the miracles from our own lives? Have we walked away from the God of the Universe to follow the gods of this world, forgetting the goodness of The Lord, His grace, and His love, His power and lovingkindness? Do we really remember the walk we have been on with Jesus, and the watchcare that we have experienced?
- As a pastor I have had the privilege of being there when others have reached out for help. I have been allowed to guide people to Christ, and to help with financial and spiritual needs. God has left for us a path of joyful stories and grateful people. And yet, every now and then, I get hurt when the one I have been caring for dumps me, and walks away, usually saying something nasty. We once took in a man to keep him out of prison. We fed and housed him for months, only to see him leave our house mad. Why did he not remember the loving care he received while with us? As such, why do we forget God and His watchcare so quickly?

Part 2: We All Forget at Times

- But we all do this. We all forget. We forget what others have done, and we all forget the loving care of God.
- And we are not the first. History records over and over again that a nation gets strong, relying and raising up out of the rubble of despair and calamity, and as the nation grows bigger and stronger it gets further and further away from God. They become their own gods, their work, their power, their might, their own personal history becomes important only. As the morals fall, as they delve into deeper and deeper into ethical dilemmas that uphold their own arrogance, nation after nation have fallen. The Assyrians fell to the Persians, the Persians to the Babylonians, the Babylonians to the Greeks, the Greeks to the Romans, the Romans to the barbarian tribes scattered everywhere - all by the same formula of losing their morals, losing their ethics, all the time turning away from God.
- The Bible records time and over again this same thing - in fact this is the history of the Jewish nation in scripture: God builds them up, they forget God, they fall onto their own ways, they rely on themselves, they turn their backs on God, they fall, God builds them back up again. And the cycle starts all over.
- Lest they forget. Lest we forget all of God's benefits. Lest we forget the God of mercy and grace who created Canada. Lest we forget the moral roots, the ethical background that made this nation great.

Lest we forget the very history of the new land called Canada. A land over there, across the ocean that was seen as another chance, as the new Jerusalem, the new beginning with God, the new land of God's Holy Empire. Lest we forget the battles fought for our peace, and how God has seen Canadians to stand time and again after the smoke clears.

Part 3: We Remember.

- I used to work with a woman named Mary. Mary was the type who knew everything about everything - especially in her own mind. She was very efficient, especially in putting down God. "How can you believe in God?" she would ask over and over. She would put God down, put down Christ's Church, she hated God in everything - but she also thought that she had the right to demand that God would do good things for her. With the same mouth that she used to spew out hatred toward God, then demand, in the form of a challenge, that God take care of her every need, all the time, in every way. There are a lot of Marys around today.
- And, like Mary, our Nation has forgotten. We refuse to remember the providence of God. We deny that God exists at every turn. How can God still stand with us as a nation after we have turned our backs on Him? How can we expect, even demand God's mercy and grace when we deny Him over and over? In the Bible, Jesus

said very clearly: Matthew 10:33: "...but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven." Oh, Lest We forget. Oh, Let Us Remember.

- Let me suggest two things on the Remembrance Day to help uis remember the Lord:
- First: let's make certain that we take the Lord, Jesus Christ, with us wherever we go. It is not popular to be in love with Jesus in Canada. Many will look at you as if you are a freaky, alien-like fool to walk with Christ as your God, but this is all the more reason to take the Lord with us to our schools, our jobs, our friends and neighbours, to our work-out gym and to our social clubs. People need to know that walking with Jesus is the greatest thing one can ever do, and that to have a personal relationship with the Living God provides hope, and peace, and everlasting joy. You might be viewed as a Jesus freak. They will say you are without tolerance. They will ignore you or try to argue with you. It will be worth it when your life shines the light of Jesus onto their tired souls and they turn to you for the truth. And it will be worth it every day of your life as Jesus walks and talks with you in a way that this world longs to know. Dare to remember by taking Jesus with you wherever you go.
- Secondly: Remember by not being afraid to live for Jesus. Don't

hide your light. The disciples in the boat (Mark 8) were lost in petty arguments and discussions about things like food and their roles. Don't follow that path. Choose the high road. Choose to walk the path of life. Read your Bible. Ask God to teach you pray, and dare to make your life a prayer to the Master of your life. Come together with others for Bible study and bold enough to grow in Christ. Dare to not accept complacency and stagnation, but challenge yourself to grow in Christ Jesus daily and powerfully. Don't forget His goodness in times of trouble, but remember that you are being lead to something greater. Don't forget to praise and worship Him. Don't forget to love and honour Him. Don't forget all His benefit. Remember by living for Jesus

Conclusion:

- Today is not a day to forget. We are to remember the men and women who sacrificed for us in the many wars. We are to remember the wars taking place in the world today, even as we speak, and remember our brothers and sisters who are living them only too closely, and dying in the stark reality of them. We are to remember those innocents who died - the children, the women, the everyday man, the old and the outcast, and the men and women of Canada who died to protect them. Lest we forget.
- And we have the Lord Jesus Christ, who lived and died, and

defeated death for us as a loving gift of the gracious God most high. We cannot forget His benefits, His caring, His mercy and His gift of grace - of eternal grace. We cannot forget the precious part of God, the part that He Himself called the beloved, the SON, who accepted the sins of this world, the sins of everyone, the sins of you and I, and paid for them in full that we might have life. Lest we forget.