



In Remembrance

What is your unforgettable redemption story? Maybe yours doesn't seem as exciting as the Exodus. Whatever your story, when you said "yes" to Christ, you walked through the Red Sea and into the Promised Land.

If you've walked down the road of life for any length of time, you've probably traveled through some bleak times. Times when nothing but pain and heartache stood between you and eternity. Times when "the light at the end of the tunnel" was a cruel joke. During these dark valleys our present troubles have a way of overshadowing our faith, and we start believing our doubts and doubting our beliefs.

I'm almost sure this is why God must say a million times (I haven't counted exactly), "Remember, remember, remember." Specifically he seems to want everyone to remember the Exodus. "Remember that you were once slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out with amazing power and mighty deeds" (Deuteronomy 5:15, NLT).

The story of the Exodus permeates the entire Old Testament! It was sung; it was prayed; it was recited at religious festivals; it was recorded in the books of the law; it was everything the Israelites had. It was the unforgettable story of their redemption, their rescue, their salvation. Yet as trials and tribulations and the doldrums of life crept in, the children of Israel would forget this unforgettable story over and over and over again. "Our ancestors were a proud and stubborn lot.... They refused to listen and did not remember the miracles you had done for them" (Nehemiah 9:16-17, NLT).

What about you? What is your unforgettable redemption story? Maybe yours doesn't seem as exciting as the Exodus. Maybe you grew up in a solid, faith-filled family. Maybe you were a disaster, far away from God? Maybe you were just eking out an existence, wishing you could cease existing? Whatever your story, when you said "yes" to Christ, you walked through the Red Sea and into the Promised Land. You were chosen, redeemed and delivered.

Like the children of Israel, you've probably found yourself wandering through the wilderness on occasion. In those dark and

barren times it's quite common to grow forgetful, stubborn and hard-headed. (I guarantee you, we're not any wiser than our forefathers!) We start noticing all the "good stuff" everyone around us has and contrast it with the "bad stuff" that seems to have barnacled itself upon us. Obedience, grace and humility get tossed aside, and we start scrambling our way to the top the best we know how, building golden calves of our own interests and greedy self-centeredness.

This is why God pleads with us to remember. Remembering what he has done in the past helps us trust him for the future. Remembering that a wretch like me was rescued by the grace of I AM can bring nothing but eternal gratitude and joy. There is no bleakness that can survive the great light of truth. The truth that once I was lost and now I'm saved.

If you've never written down your own personal redemption story, try this one on for size. "Before Christ came we were slaves to the spiritual powers of this world. But when the right time came, God sent his Son...to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because you Gentiles have become his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, and now...you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, everything he has belongs to you" (Galatians 4:3-7, NLT).

Wow! Everything he has belongs to us? How can we ever let moments of frustration erase that miracle from the forefront of our minds?

When we take the Lord's Supper this Easter season, let's fully obey Jesus' command to "Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19, NLT). Remember the Lamb who suffered and died that our place in eternity would be sealed, that the sting of death would cease and that a new kingdom would begin.

Don't forget it. □

—Susan Reedy