

Autumn - Time for Remembering - Sept. 22, 2021

Intro: Autumn - time of the harvest. We celebrate abundance & count our blessings ... Bible tells us this is a time to remember.

Duet. 24:19-22 - "When you are harvesting your crops and forget to bring in a bundle of grain from your field, don't go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigners, orphans, and widows. Then the Lord your God will bless you in all you do. 20 When you beat the olives from your olive trees, don't go over the boughs twice. Leave the remaining olives for the foreigners, orphans, and widows. 21 When you gather the grapes in your vineyard, don't glean the vines after they are picked. Leave the remaining grapes for the foreigners, orphans, and widows. 22 **Remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt.** That is why I am giving you this command."

This Autumn, remember your past. Remember people who helped you succeed. Remember the ones who changed you forever. Left indelible imprint.

Remember where you came from. Realize how far you have come. Be grateful.

You have your house . . . Remember that cramped apt. . . . be Grateful.

You have reached a milestone . . . graduation, retirement . . . Grateful.

You got that job . . . Remember when you struggled . . . which bill? Grateful.

You have friends. Your pet. A place where you belong. Grateful.

Your diagnosis wasn't good . . . but God was merciful. Grateful.

You are cancer free . . . Remember the tears, the fear . . . Grateful.

You may be struggling still with some issue . . . but you are better. Remember.

"Remember how far you've come, not just how far you have to go. You are not where you want to be, but neither are you where you used to be." – Rick Warren

Remember it was God that made it happen.

As you think of your harvest & bountiful blessings . . . **don't hoard them. Stingy.** Share your blessings with others. Be generous . . . offer what you have . . . act w/mercy & generosity, remembering from where we came.

That idea of sharing your blessings as you remember your past is reinforced also in Deut. 15 -

Deut. 15:12-15 – “If any of your people—Hebrew men or women—sell themselves to you and serve you six years, in the seventh year you must let them go free. 13 And when you release them, do not send them away empty-handed. 14 Supply them liberally from your flock, your threshing floor & your winepress. Give to them as the Lord your God has blessed you. 15 **Remember** that you were slaves in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you. That is why I give you this command today.”

Today . . . we aren't slaves. No one living has that memory.

John 8:32-34- Jesus said - *one day you will know the truth, the truth will set you free*. But the Jews said: “we're Abraham's descendants; we've never been slaves to anyone. How can you say we will be set free?” Jesus replied, “*Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.*”

Remember what it was like before Jesus became Lord of your life?

Slave to sin means life is controlled by Self. Blood of Jesus redeemed us.

Jesus as Lord - we can now experience a new life – abundant life.

... a life of peace... life of contentment... life of joy, purpose, & love.

That's a reason for worship!

Leviticus 23 - certain times are established for the people to come together and worship God. One is the **Festival of Shelters** (Festival of Tabernacles) – it's also tied to remembering:

Lev. 23: – 39 “So beginning with the 15th day of the 7th month {*of the Hebrew calendar - Sept-Oct*}, after you have gathered the crops of the land, celebrate the festival to the Lord for seven days; the first day is a day of sabbath rest, and the eighth day also is a day of sabbath rest. 40 On the first day you are to take branches from luxuriant trees—from palms, willows and other leafy trees—and rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days. 41 Celebrate this as a festival to the Lord for seven days each year. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month. 42 Live in temporary shelters for seven days: All native-born Israelites are to live in such shelters 43 so your descendants will know that I had the Israelites live in temporary shelters when I brought them out of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

- Today is 1st day of Autumn. Let's get out the palm branches and celebrate God.
Let's celebrate God's goodness & remember the past.
Time to remember how far God has brought us.
Time to proclaim His goodness; His mercy.
Time to worship. Thank Him for the blessings.
Be grateful for the journey. God is good.

Song of Week – “How Far We've Come” – by I Am They
Stay positive. Test negative. Get vaccinated.