How many of you think you may have a memory problem?

How many of you have been told you have a memory problem but stubbornly refuse to deny it?

Those that didn’t raise their hands may have forgotten…

I told a story on Dee at Bible last Wednesday (not about her memory…), so it’s only fair that I tell one on myself today…

The other morning we were both ready to leave for work. She gave me her usual kiss goodbye and then asked me to add sugar & instant coffee to the grocery list which is located on our Ibotta/Walmart grocery app as she headed out the door.

Suddenly I had an epiphany! I said to myself, “Self, do that right away before...

She walked out the door and immediately I felt this sort of tension beginning to build, because the app was taking FOREVER to open…

I’m saying, “come on before I forget… or my ADD kicks in and I squirrel!”

Finally, the Ibotta app opened and I hit the Walmart grocery pick up icon and IT took FOREVER to open…

Seriously!! How many “forevers” can a person deal with when they’re trying to leave for work and remember something all at the same time?!!

By the time the app opened…

Which items was I supposed to add to the list?

I could only remember the sugar…

So I had to humble myself and call her on the phone…

Guess where she was? In the garage!

Either FOREVER wasn’t as long as I thought, or she was moving in slow motion that day… I don’t know…

She answered… “hellllooo?” And she gave me the missing item…

There you have it… an average morning at our house these days…

Lately I have been speaking to you about…

Oh yes, the importance of abandoning pride, self-sufficiency and building your own kingdom, and humbling ones-self to discover sufficiency in the “all sufficient” Son of God, Jesus…, the Christ.

Because finding one’s sufficiency in Christ will lead us to become like Him, (Ephesians 2), and empty ourselves of who we are and what we can or cannot accomplish, so that He can fill us with His spirit and He can keep our hearts & minds focused on building the Kingdom of God.

To help those interested in doing that today, we’re going to glean from the wisdom of Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived.

There have been so many times in my life that I have prayed for wisdom concerning struggles/issues in my life…, it is then that God often directs me to the wisdom of King Solomon (Son of King David).

What intrigues me most about Solomon is how he received his wisdom. 1 Kings 3:7-14 NLT

7 “Now, O Lord my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn’t know his way around (humility). 8 And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! 9 Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?” (His desire is to build God’s kingdom correctly).

10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. 11 So God replied, “Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies— 12 I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! 13 And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life! 14 And if you follow me and obey my decrees and my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life.”

The Word of the Lord! Thanks be to God!

Understand this… Before the wisdom, fame & riches that God gave to Solomon to make Him such an excellent builder for the Kingdom of God, he was pretty much like us…

Like children who don’t know their way around… desiring wisdom to know what’s right & wrong, so we can do the right thing for God’s glory, and a stronger & healthier kingdom of God can be produced thru our lives.

Let’s turn now to Ecclesiastes 12:1-7 and receive some of Solomon’s Godly wisdom today…

12:1 Don’t let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honor him in your youth before you grow old and say, “Life is not pleasant anymore.”

2 Remember him before the light of the sun, moon, and stars is dim to your old eyes, and rain clouds continually darken your sky.

3 Remember him before your legs—the guards of your house—start to tremble; and before your shoulders—the strong men—stoop.

Remember him before your teeth—your few remaining servants—stop grinding; and before your eyes—the women looking through the windows—see dimly.

4 Remember him before the door to life’s opportunities is closed and the sound of work fades. Now you rise at the first chirping of the birds, but then all their sounds will grow faint.

5 Remember him before you become fearful of falling and worry about danger in the streets; before your hair turns white like an almond tree in bloom, and you drag along without energy like a dying grasshopper, and the caperberry no longer inspires sexual desire.

Remember him before you near the grave, your everlasting home, when the mourners will weep at your funeral.

6 Yes, remember your Creator now while you are young, before the silver cord of life snaps and the golden bowl is broken. Don’t wait until the water jar is smashed at the spring and the pulley is broken at the well. 7 For then the dust will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

1. Remember God V:1-7

“Remember your Creator in the days of your youth. Why? Because old age arrives sooner than you think it will…

Don’t fall into the enemy’s trap of thinking:

* Youth is for having fun and enjoying life (while keeping God at arm’s length).
* The mid 20’s-late 50’s is the time for making money and raising a family. (Having God a little closer, but keeping Him in a box, so He can never leave you and always be there for you when you have trouble in your kingdom).
* That serving the Lord (building His kingdom) is something one does when they retire…

Remember: The enemy loves for people to buy into that way of thinking… look at the age of the builders?

It’s no wonder God’s kingdom seems to be struggling!! It’s like setting a goal to drive cross country in a vehicle that’s prone to having frequent backfires and a leaky radiator!

Remember: that Solomon did not write this to discourage older people or cause them to feel regret and give up serving the Lord.

He is speaking from experience… and likely saying nothing different than any older person would say to someone younger than them today...

Serve the Lord, and build His Kingdom while you can…

By the same token, REMEMBER that those older people are needed to:

* Continue setting the right example for those who are younger.
* Serving when and where they are able, because retirement is in heaven.
* Support the ideas/changes that younger people bring to the table…

Because there are a lot of new ways and new music that God has given to build His kingdom.

Sometimes “older builders” lose sight of that truth and become an obstacle to growth and progress, which causes churches to die… or causes the younger people to leave and build with a group of younger believers… But that mindset is neither wise or Godly…

In the same way, younger kingdom people REMEMBER to respect the older builders because God inspired the music they love, it was once “cutting edge”!!

And it was their ways of building the kingdom (showing the love of Christ in their community and making disciples who make disciples) that God has used to bring you to faith in Christ.

1. Lived in Wisdom’s light 12:8-12

8 “Everything is meaningless,” says the Teacher, “completely meaningless.”

9 Keep this in mind: The Teacher was considered wise, and he taught the people everything he knew. He listened carefully to many proverbs, studying and classifying them.

10 The Teacher sought to find just the right words to express truths clearly.

11 The words of the wise are like cattle prods—painful but helpful. Their collected sayings are like a nail-studded stick with which a shepherd uses to drive the sheep.

12 But, my child, let me give you some further advice: Be careful, for writing books is endless, and much study wears you out.

The book of Ecclesiastes & Proverbs is filled with Solomon’s Wisdom that we would do well to Remember…

When we hear it, it may feel like a GOAD (nail studded stick) in the behind… but when applied, remembered and passed along during your building process…

Our existence here as a servant of Yahweh, Elohim, Almighty God, Sovereign Lord of the Universe, Father… is blessed beyond compare!

I would strongly encourage you to read this short book today…

“He will tell you how he applied/gave his heart to … wisdom/education… and of course it’s good to be educated and intelligent, but education doesn’t answer the deep longings of the human heart.

He gave himself to “humor,” only to discovered that when everything is funny, nothing’s funny.

He tried working long hours. Embracing materialism hoping to find validation/significance and satisfaction. Only to find it was nothing more than a bag with a hole in it…

He tried wine and women and song—politics, and wealth… which is a mess and a half… and probably the cause of his white hair, like the blossoming almond tree.

Nothing was able to answer the deepest questions… or satisfy the longings of his heart.

Some hope that wisdom comes with age…, but some of us know that age sometimes shows up all by itself!

The great thing about the Bible is it gives us the wisdom we need NOW!

While we’re young-er. To be a more effective, satisfied, blessed builder of the Kingdom of God.

1. Chose Faithfulness over Fear. V13-14

13 That’s the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone’s duty. 14 God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.

Ouch! There’s another GOAD!! Another nail spiked stick in the backside!

This can actually make some people angry. What do you mean, I’m supposed to ‘fear God’? I don’t want to fear God.”

Well, if you’ll calm down for a minute… to fear God is not to be frightened by God.

That kind of fear is the reaction that guilt gives us, knowing that we have intentionally sinned in the face of God’s power and truthfulness and might.

But when we repent of sin and actually stop, what Solomon is saying is to run FROM God; but run TO Him.

That’s of vital importance to us because it’s only in the turning to God that He can deliver us from all our other fears:

* Fear of death
* Fear that I have made such a mess of my life that it can never be fixed.
* Fear that I have done so many things that are displeasing to myself and to others, that there is no possibility that I can reconcile with them.

Not true all of Scripture funnels towards… God sending His Son Jesus to die for our sin…

Jesus defeated Satan and vanquished the fear that holds us hostage…

He remembered His Father, Lived in Wisdom’s light, and chose Faithfulness over Fear. He accomplished His work with 3 nails & a cross.

The Word “Remember” appears 210 times in the Bible… mostly in the OT…

But one of the few times it is referenced in the NT is by Jesus at the Last Supper…

Let’s end the service today by faithfully obeying God’s command by “Remembering Jesus”, shall we.

Ushers come forward and distribute the elements that symbolize the body and blood of our Lord & Savior…

We sang a song here last week… written by a man, John Newton, who’s life was a total mess… but God’s “Amazing Grace” changed all of that…

He was a foul mouthed, slave trader who cussed like a sailor! Oh yes, he was a sailor…

But when he realized he had been building his own kingdom and feared missing the kingdom of God, John Newton turned to God and received not just God’s AMAZING GRACE, but his amazing love, mercy and forgiveness.

God worked thru John Newton to write many hymns that have led many people to become kingdom builders themselves… God also made him a pastor…

What magnificent things does God want to do in your life if you will only trust Him and turn to Him by faith?

Let’s sing Amazing Grace