

DON'T FORGET

A Complete Gospel Sermon

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INTRODUCTION

We live in a culture of spiritual amnesia. People forget where they came from, what God has done, and what is coming. The Bible repeatedly sounds the alarm against forgetfulness — because forgetting God is not merely an intellectual failure, it is a moral and spiritual catastrophe. Moses thundered it to Israel. The Psalmist commanded his own soul with it. The New Testament writers echoed it with urgency. And today, the Holy Spirit still cries out to a sleeping church and a dying world:

Don't Forget.

Key Passage:

Deuteronomy 8:11 — *"Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day." (KJV)*

Grammatical Parsing:

"Beware" — Hebrew: *shamar* — to guard, to watch carefully. A Qal imperative — a direct, urgent command.

"Forget" — Hebrew: *shakach* — to forget, to ignore, to cease to care. A Qal imperfect — ongoing, habitual danger.

"**The LORD thy God**" — the covenant name YHWH. God frames this in the language of *relationship*, not religion.

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT FORGETTING

Before we walk through our six points, we must notice something remarkable: **Jesus Himself addressed the danger of forgetting more than we often realize.** He warned against it, rebuked His own disciples for it, built an entire ordinance to fight it, and sent the Holy Spirit partly to overcome it. Here is a brief survey of what the Lord said:

1. Remember Lot's Wife — Luke 17:32

Three of the most sobering words Jesus ever spoke. A warning that looking back — forgetting your calling and clinging to what God has called you away from — is deadly.

2. Do This In Remembrance of Me — Luke 22:19

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper specifically because He knew His people would forget what He had done at Calvary. The entire ordinance of communion is God's answer to our forgetfulness.

3. God Does Not Forget You — Luke 12:6-7

"Not one sparrow is forgotten before God." When we forget God, we may fear He has also forgotten us. Jesus assures us — He has not. Not one of His own is ever out of His sight.

4. The Disciples Forgot the Miracle — Mark 8:17-18

Jesus rebuked His own disciples: "Do ye not yet perceive? Have ye your heart yet hardened? Having eyes, see ye not? Do ye not remember?"

They had witnessed miracles — and forgot them almost immediately.

5. Leave Your Gift and Remember — Matthew 5:23-24

Jesus said if you come to the altar and suddenly remember a broken relationship, stop and go make it right. Don't forget the people God has placed in your life while pretending to worship Him.

6. You Have Forgotten Your First Love — Revelation 2:4-5

The risen Christ rebuked the church at Ephesus: "Thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent." An entire church had forgotten its passion for Christ.

7. The Holy Spirit Will Help You Remember — John 14:26

"He shall bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." Jesus promised that one of the primary ministries of the Holy Spirit is to fight our forgetfulness of His Word.

**The theme of forgetting runs through the entire ministry of Jesus.
Now let us look at the six things we must never forget.**

POINT I

Don't Forget That the Lord Jesus Will Always Forgive You of Your Sin

The greatest news in the universe is not merely that God exists — it is that God *forgives*. No matter how deep the sin, no matter

how many times a soul has fallen, the mercy of Christ reaches farther still. The gospel is not a one-time door — it is a living fountain of grace that never runs dry.

Key Verse:

1 John 1:9 — *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (KJV)*

Grammatical Parsing:

"Confess" — Greek: *homologomen* — to say the same thing as God about our sin. A present active subjunctive — ongoing, continual confession.

"Faithful" — Greek: *pistos* — trustworthy, certain. Based on His character, not your feelings.

"Just" — Greek: *dikaios* — legally right. The cross made it just for God to forgive — the penalty was paid in full.

"Cleanse" — Greek: *katharise* — to purify completely, make spotless. An aorist active subjunctive — complete, decisive cleansing.

Additional Scriptures:

Isaiah 1:18 — *"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." (KJV)*

Psalms 103:12 — *"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." (KJV)*

Isaiah 43:25 — *"I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." (KJV)*

What Jesus Said:

John 14:26 — *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (KJV)*

Jesus knew we would forget His words and His grace. That is why He sent the Holy Spirit — one of whose primary ministries is to fight our spiritual forgetfulness and bring us back to the mercy of God at the cross.

Luke 22:19 — *"This do in remembrance of me." (KJV)*

Jesus built an entire ordinance — the Lord's Supper — because He knew His people would forget what Calvary cost. Every time you take communion, you are obeying a direct command of Jesus to *not forget* what He did for you.

"The blood of Jesus Christ does not merely cover sin — it cancels it, abolishes it, and removes it from the record of heaven forever." — C.H. Spurgeon

"While the sinner trembles and doubts whether God will receive him, let him know this: God has never turned away one truly penitent soul in all of history." — D.L. Moody

APPLICATION: Have you forgotten the mercy that saved you? The Holy Spirit is here right now to remind you. Don't forget — He will forgive you today.

POINT II

Don't Forget That the Lord Is Longsuffering

God is not in a panic. He is not slamming the door of mercy shut in haste. He is *waiting*. With patience that defies human comprehension, He endures man's rebellion and extends His hand of grace — because He desires that none should perish. Every sunrise is proof God is still being patient.

Key Verse:

2 Peter 3:9 — *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (KJV)*

Grammatical Parsing:

"Longsuffering" — Greek: *makrothumei* — literally "long-tempered." A present active indicative — actively, continuously patient right now.

"Willing" — Greek: *boulomenos* — God's purposeful, deliberate desire. His will is that all men be saved.

"Perish" — Greek: *apolesthai* — to destroy utterly. An aorist middle infinitive — the finality of eternal destruction.

Additional Scriptures:

Romans 2:4 — *"The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance."* (KJV)

Psalms 145:8 — *"The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy."* (KJV)

Ezekiel 18:23 — *"Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?"* (KJV)

What Jesus Said:

Luke 12:6-7 — *"Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows."* (KJV)

While we are prone to forget God, He never forgets us. Jesus reminds us that the longsuffering of God is rooted in His intimate, personal love for every soul. Not one sparrow is forgotten — and you are worth far more than sparrows.

"Every morning you wake up is a mercy. Every breath you draw is God still holding the door open." — **Jonathan Edwards**

"God's patience is not indifference — it is love waiting for a prodigal to come to his senses." — **Matthew Henry**

APPLICATION: God is still waiting for that person you have been praying for. Don't forget — He has not forgotten them,

and He has not forgotten you.

POINT III

Don't Forget That Hell Is Eternal

The most urgent truth in all of evangelism is one the modern church has nearly abandoned: *hell is real, hell is eternal, and sinners are going there*. Our urgency on the streets of Kensington and in every Safety Zone is fueled by this terrible, sobering truth. We do not preach hell to frighten — we preach it because it is true.

Key Verses:

Matthew 25:46 — *"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."* (KJV)

Grammatical Parsing:

"Everlasting" — Greek: *aionion* — eternal, without end. The same Greek word used for eternal life. You cannot accept one and deny the other.

"Punishment" — Greek: *kolasin* — conscious punishment, ongoing awareness. Not annihilation — conscious, eternal suffering.

Additional Scriptures:

Revelation 14:11 — *"And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night."* (KJV)

Mark 9:44 — *"Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."* (KJV)

2 Thessalonians 1:9 — *"These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."* (KJV)

Revelation 20:14 — *"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."* (KJV)

What Jesus Said:

Revelation 2:4-5 — *"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent." (KJV)*

The risen Christ warned an entire church that had forgotten its first love for Him. When a church forgets its passion for souls — forgets that men are going to hell — it loses the very fire that drives evangelism. Jesus called it falling. He commanded them to remember, repent, and return.

"The sinner who goes to hell does not go there because God failed him. He goes there because he refused the only remedy God provided." — C.H. Spurgeon

"If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay." — C.H. Spurgeon

"I cannot, with any conscience, let men sleep their way into eternity without the alarm being sounded." — Jonathan Edwards

APPLICATION: This is why we go to the streets. This is why we run Safety Zones. Don't forget — hell is not a metaphor. It is a destination.

POINT IV

Don't Forget That the Lord Will Save Anybody Who Accepts Him

Here is the great balance of the gospel: as terrible as hell is, the door of salvation is open to *every single person who will come*. There is only one sin that ultimately damns a soul — the complete, final, hardened rejection of the Holy Spirit. If a person is asking whether they have committed it, they have not — the

Spirit is still drawing them.

Key Verses:

Romans 10:9-10 — *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* (KJV)

Grammatical Parsing:

"Confess" — Greek: *homologeses* — to publicly declare. An aorist active subjunctive — a decisive moment of declaration.

"Believe" — Greek: *pisteuses* — to trust fully, to commit completely. Heart-level trust.

"Saved" — Greek: *sothesei* — a future passive indicative. God's guaranteed action in response to genuine faith.

On the Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit:

Matthew 12:31 — *"All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men."* (KJV)

Additional Scriptures:

Romans 10:13 — *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* (KJV)

John 6:37 — *"Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."* (KJV)

Revelation 22:17 — *"Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."* (KJV)

What Jesus Said:

Luke 17:32 — *"Remember Lot's wife."* (KJV)

Three words. One of the most powerful warnings Jesus ever gave. Lot's wife had the door of deliverance open before her — but she looked back. She forgot where she was going and clung to where she had been. Salvation requires forward motion — a decisive turning to Christ and away from the old life. Don't be like Lot's wife. Don't let a

soul in your crusade look back when they are so close to being saved.

"No man is too sinful for God's grace. The issue is never the depth of the sin — it is the willingness of the heart." — D.L. Moody

"The gate of mercy stands wide open to the vilest of sinners. The only ones who cannot enter are those who will not come." — John Wesley

APPLICATION: Tell the addict. Tell the prisoner. Tell the person who thinks they've gone too far. Don't forget — Jesus will save anybody who comes to Him.

POINT V

Don't Forget the Judgment of God

Every person who has ever lived has a divine appointment that cannot be cancelled, rescheduled, or escaped. The unbeliever who mocks God today will bow before Him on that day. On that day, there will be no more longsuffering — only justice. No more opportunities — only verdicts.

Key Verse:

Hebrews 9:27 — *"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."* (KJV)

Grammatical Parsing:

"Appointed" — Greek: *apokeitai* — laid up, set aside, reserved. A present middle indicative — already fixed, already waiting.

"Once" — Greek: *hapax* — once for all, never again. No reincarnation. No second chance after death.

"Judgment" — Greek: *krisis* — a verdict, a separation. The ultimate crisis of every human soul.

Additional Scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:10 — "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (KJV)

Romans 14:12 — "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." (KJV)

Revelation 20:12 — "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened." (KJV)

Hebrews 10:31 — "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (KJV)

What Jesus Said:

Mark 8:17-18 — "Do ye not yet perceive, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember?" (KJV)

Jesus rebuked His own disciples for forgetting His miracles almost as soon as they had seen them. If the disciples who walked with Jesus in the flesh could forget so quickly, how much more are we in danger of forgetting the judgment that is coming? The hardened heart is the forgetful heart. We must keep the reality of judgment always before us — and before those we preach to.

"Every unconverted man is living under a sentence already passed. The Judge is not deliberating — He is waiting." — **C.H. Spurgeon**

"Men do not fear judgment because they do not believe in a Judge. But their unbelief will not excuse them on that day." — **Jonathan Edwards**

"The judgment seat of Christ is not a possibility — it is a certainty." — **A.W. Tozer**

APPLICATION: Preach it in the street. Print it in the tract. Don't forget — every person has a divine appointment with the Judge of all the earth.

POINT VI

Don't Forget — Sinners Go to Heaven and "Good People" Go to Hell

Here is the most counterintuitive truth of the gospel — the one that offends the natural man most. It is not the *bad* people who are most in danger of hell. It is the *self-righteous* person who believes they are good enough without a Savior. The prostitute who cries out to Jesus at the Safety Zone goes to heaven. The respectable man who trusted in his own goodness for forty years goes to hell. Jesus did not come for the healthy — He came for the sick.

Key Verses:

Luke 5:32 — *"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."* (KJV)

Romans 3:10-12 — *"There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."* (KJV)

Grammatical Parsing:

"Righteous" — Greek: *dikaios* — one right before God's law. Paul's devastating argument: no one qualifies on their own merit.

"None" — Greek: *ouk estin* — present active indicative, absolute. Not "very few" — *none*.

Additional Scriptures:

Romans 3:23 — *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."* (KJV)

Isaiah 64:6 — *"All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags."* (KJV)

Ephesians 2:8-9 — *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (KJV)*

Titus 3:5 — *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us." (KJV)*

Proverbs 14:12 — *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (KJV)*

What Jesus Said:

Matthew 5:23-24 — *"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." (KJV)*

Jesus said don't forget broken relationships while pretending to worship. The self-righteous person often remembers their religion but forgets the people they have wounded. True repentance remembers both God and people. True salvation changes how you treat others — not just how you perform religious duties. You cannot be right with God while ignoring being right with people.

"The self-righteous man is the hardest man to win to Christ — because he sees no need of a physician when he does not believe himself to be sick." — D.L. Moody

"It is not your badness that will keep you out of heaven — it is your self-sufficiency. The publican went home justified; the Pharisee did not." — C.H. Spurgeon

"Religion will take a man to the gates of heaven and leave him there — only Christ can take him in." — Matthew Henry

APPLICATION: Which one are you? Don't trust your morality. Trust the Savior. Don't forget — only sinners who know they need a Savior find one.

CONCLUSION

The great preacher George Whitefield was once asked why he preached the same sermon over and over again. He answered simply: *"Because you have not yet repented."*

Jesus warned us. He rebuked His disciples for forgetting. He built an ordinance to help us remember. He sent the Holy Spirit to bring things back to our memory. And still — we forget. These six truths are ancient and eternal. A world that was never told them is marching toward a Christless eternity. So we say it again:

Don't forget — He forgives.

Don't forget — He is still waiting.

Don't forget — Hell is real and eternal.

Don't forget — He will save anybody.

Don't forget — Judgment is coming.

Don't forget — The sinner who comes to Christ goes to heaven.

Closing Verse:

Psalm 77:11 — *"I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old."* (KJV)