



SERIES: Pursuing Spiritual Fitness
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Thursday, July 13, 2023
Scripture: Jeremiah 44:4-5; 8-9
TITLE: The Danger of Forgetfulness

Forgetful. I can be pretty forgetful. I forget where I put my wallet. I lose track of my keys all the time. My phone is constantly running away. Thankfully, I have this watch that helps me locate it again. I am thankful to say, I have never forgotten my wife's birthday or our anniversary.

What about you? What are the things you forget?

To forget is to be human. But sometimes, our forgetfulness turns into open disobedience. And this is the story of humanity. What do I mean by that? Let's go back to the Bible to learn more about our story.

Jeremiah 44:4-5, 8-9 contains an astonishing snapshot of a people whose forgetfulness leads to disobedience.

“Again and again I sent my servants, the prophets, to plead with them, ‘Don’t do these horrible things that I hate so much.’ But my people would not listen or turn back from their wicked ways. They kept on burning incense to these gods...

“Why provoke my anger by burning incense to the idols you have made here in Egypt? You will only destroy yourselves and make yourselves an object of cursing and mockery for all the nations of the earth. Have you forgotten the sins of your ancestors, the sins of the kings and queens of Judah, and the sins you and your wives committed in Judah and Jerusalem?”

God said through Jeremiah, “Have you forgotten? Again and again, I send people to remind you of who I am, where you come from, and what will happen if you continue down this path.”

You see, we are forgetful people. If you took the time to read Genesis through Malachi, you see a cycle: People are near God. But they walk away. They forget God. They sin. They remember God, so they cry out. God rescues. God reminds them. And then the process repeats. Over and over again, you see this coming and going of people with God.

The story of Hosea provides a powerful picture of God's love for us, despite our forgetfulness and rebellion. Hosea's wife Gomer leaves him to be an adulterer, yet God says, “Go get your wife. You love her no matter what.” But then God continues by saying, “This is just like my Creation. I love them, but they cheat on me. But I am here, and I still love them. Come home to me.”

This is the story of mankind. We were intimately created. We are spiritual, because we are made in God's image. But we are sinful and terribly forgetful. Yet, God loves us. He sits at the door waiting for us to return. We may cheat, but He is faithful.

So this is my challenge for you. Ask yourself, "Where have I been unfaithful to God?" How have you been forgetting your first love, God?

If you're like me, you will probably begin by saying, "Let me count the ways..." Reflect and admit it to God. And then come home again. God loves you...all of you...even the worst parts of you, because He has forgiven you and made you clean.

We all forget. It's who we are, but thankfully, God is there to remind us and call us back home.

If you're ready, let's go home. When we do this, we will win the day.