



Devotion Week 24: Numbers 9 September 10, 2020

Bible Reference: [Numbers 9](#)

Remembering and Following

When I remember what Jesus has done for me, I keep following Him. The devil, on the other hand, likes to distract me with issues during the wilderness so that I forget. He takes my focus off of remembering what Jesus has done and switches it to a current trial. A week ago my new trial was car trouble. I was driving to visit Chris Rollins when I heard a big bang, and then my van started making loud noises and moving very slowly. Thankfully I made it to Chris' house and back to church (they are very close) where I asked Tracy to follow me and the girls home to make sure we made it safely. At home it sunk in that both of our cars were now in the shop; Mindy was already driving the truck we borrowed from my in-laws because her car was getting worked on. Later that day my van was towed to the shop and evaluated. When I talked to Mike, the car guy, he said, "You won the lottery." Huh? "I won the lottery?" I asked, not knowing what he was talking about. Mike replied, "This should have shot the whole engine, but I was able to fix it."

I am not sure I would equate it to winning the lottery, but I see his point. This situation had certainly distracted me from remembering what Jesus had done for me. His comment helped me to stop and remember how Jesus had blessed me with my friend, Jason, who also works at this shop, and that him and the other guys service our cars well and fairly. I remembered how Jesus had gifted us to begin with by providing us cars to drive. I remembered how He has blessed us financially to pay for these surprise repairs.

In our text for today, it came time for the children of Israel to celebrate the Passover, even in the midst of the wilderness. The Passover was a celebration God put in place so that they would remember what He had done for them when He rescued them from Egypt. Every element of it was there intentionally for that exact purpose. Why do they need to remember? They got distracted, just like we do, and forgot who was taking care of them. Like I had to force myself to remember how

Jesus was/is taking care of me, this tradition forced the children of Israel to remember what God had done/was doing for them.

Honestly, following God, and most authority figures, is trusting that they know what is best even if we don't understand it. The tradition of Passover wasn't just valuable back then, but Jesus transformed it into what we know today as the Lord's Supper, and it is just as valuable to us today. In the Lord's Supper there is a beautiful connection to the promise fulfilled—Jesus—who solves our greatest issue—death—and will never leave us!

At first it seems odd that God is so insistant on making sure the Passover was celebrated, but we can see how important it is to remember what God has done and to speak it to one another. Thus, when Mt. Calvary shut down due to COVID, it was very important to me to bring back communion as soon as we could. Not only is it an important tradition, but it is the gift of Jesus speaking to you of how you are forgiven, and that no matter what you have done or what happens, He has the ultimate victory.

The rest of the Numbers 9 reading goes on to explain how God physically led the people with a cloud during the day and fire at night. There is something so comforting about God telling them their every move, and we may wish He would do that with us. This is where we forget that He does! Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to lead us. When crisis or issues happen, it is important for us to stop and pray, "Holy Spirit, lead me."

That day when my van broke down, I started praying. Jesus provided people like Tracy to make sure I got home safely. He provided a tow service and an auto shop. Earlier I forgot to say one thing about my conversation with Mike, the car guy. I told Mike I had been praying about this situation all day. I guess I did win the lottery after all, but actually, it was way better than the lottery because the Holy Spirit was guiding me, and He guides me every day.

My prayer for you is that chapters like these in Numbers help you to stop in the tough moments and thank Jesus for His faithfulness, that you may see His wonderful provision, and that you ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. It may not look like a cloud or fire, but I believe you will see reminders that Jesus is right alongside you.

God's Peace,
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