

## Facing our Past

Deuteronomy 5:6-21

### Facing our past:

~dq *keh'-dem* East, past, front, beginning

Rxa *akh-ar'* Prep after also translated afterwards (time as in future) or behind.

Iwamv *sem-ole'* usually means *left side*, left hand, but also *north* as one faces east

!ymy *yaw-meen'* right, *right side or south* (direction of the right hand when facing East)

In some ways, the Old Testament is all about the **past**, the children of Israel living with the accumulated effects of 400 years of slavery.

1. **Repentance**: How we deal with our own guilt.

*<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions... <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.* —Psalm 51:1, 12

### Facing Past Sins:

- We all have past sins and **failures**.
- Very few can be **undone**.
- All can be **forgiven**.

2. **Forgiveness**: How we deal with things someone else has done to us.

*“Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.”* —Luke 11:4

Greatest weight of the past may not be past sins we **committed**,

But past sins of **others** we refuse to forgive.

**Refusing** forgiveness seems to hold *someone else* in bondage,

But in reality, we are holding our own heart **hostage**.

3. **Thanksgiving**—**Praise**—How we give value to what God has accomplished in and for me.

*“Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.”*  
—Deuteronomy 5:15

Time gives us **perspective**.

Time and **faith** enable us to praise God for all things.

(Romans 8:28)

Today, you are where you are because Romans 8:28 has been made real in your life.

In retrospect, **can** you give thanks to God for what He has done in your life?

**Will** you?

4. **Wisdom**: Lessons learned in life.

*“Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.”*  
—1 Corinthians 10:6

Questions for difficult times:

**Why**? (Not wrong but not very helpful)

What do you want me to **learn**?

**How** can I be faithful?

Memory Verse:

*“Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.”*  
—Deuteronomy 5:15