

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.

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions... ¹² 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:

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—Deuteronomy 5:15