

A Call To Remembrance

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A Call to Remembrance | November 30, 2025 | Psalms 103

Prepared from the spoken message and lightly edited for readability. Scripture quotations and spoken phrasing are preserved as delivered.

All right, good morning. I want to invite you to take God's Word and turn to Psalm chapter 103.

It's good to be with our North Klein campus. If I haven't met you, I'll look forward to meeting you, maybe in the atrium right after this is over. I would love to shake your hand and just say hello to you. God is doing such a wonderful thing here on our North Klein campus, and I'll talk a little bit more about that as we get going in the message today.

We'll start our Christmas series - I know this is the first Sunday of Advent - but we'll start a three-week Christmas series beginning next week. We're calling it "Here," and we're going to look at the promise of "God is with us." That's Emmanuel. God is with us. The second week, we'll talk about "God is for us." That's salvation. And the third week, "God is in us." That'll be the three-week Christmas series leading up to our Christmas Eve services.

It's hard to believe we are already in the Christmas season, but here it is. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. This message will go along with Thanksgiving and get us right into Christmas.

If you're taking notes, and I encourage you to as we go along, the title of the message today is "A Call to Remembrance."

There is a significant amount of Scripture that calls us to remember the acts of the Lord - what He has done in our lives and who He is in our lives. Over and over again, we are told to recall to mind, to remember, who God is and what He has done.

We'll get to Psalm 103 in just a moment, but just to make my point in this call to remembrance, remember the Shema in Deuteronomy 6:4-9. The Lord, through Moses, tells the people of Israel to write something on their doorframes and to put it on the frontlets of their eyes. It's Deuteronomy 6:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise.

You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

— Deuteronomy 6:4-9

The Lord wanted His people to remember His words, to recall the law of the Lord. It's why He wanted them written down, so that as they went out and came in, they could see the Word of the Lord, the law of the Lord. It's why He wanted His words taught diligently to their children as they would go about their day. Whether they were sitting or rising to go, they were to be talking about the Word of the Lord. Why? So they could remember what He had spoken to them.

God, through the prophet Isaiah, says:

*Remember this and stand firm,
recall it to mind, you transgressors,
remember the former things of old;
for I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me.*

— Isaiah 46:8-9

The psalmist says:

*I will remember the deeds of the LORD;
yes, I will remember your wonders of old.*

— Psalm 77:11

Time after time, there is this command to remember. We see it in symbolism throughout Scripture.

Remember the stones of remembrance when Joshua crossed over the Jordan River, that miraculous crossing where God brought His people into the Promised Land. He said, "You put these stones of remembrance here so that future generations, when they see these stones, will say, 'What are those all about?' And you can remember how God miraculously brought you out of Egypt and into the Promised Land."

Or think about the rainbow in the sky. God said, "I'm going to put a bow in the sky to remind you of how I judged the earth and for you to remember that I'll never judge the earth in the form of a flood again."

We took the Lord's Supper last week. If you're like me, you grew up in a small church, and there was a piece of furniture right in front of the pulpit that said, "Do this in what? Remembrance of Me." The Lord's Supper is all about remembering the sacrifice of Christ - His body broken, His blood poured out.

In fact, in Scripture we're told that Israel was judged for not remembering the works of the Lord.

Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today,

lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them,

and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied,

then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

— Deuteronomy 8:11-14

Then verse 19:

And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish.

— Deuteronomy 8:19

I'm calling us to remembrance today. This is what David is doing in Psalm chapter 103. He's calling himself, and he's calling the people of God, the people of Israel, to remember the works of the Lord.

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

I want us to look at it together. Psalm chapter 103. We'll just work through it verse by verse.

The Scripture says:

*Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!*

— Psalm 103:1

This psalm starts very personally. David says, "Bless the LORD." That's Yahweh. That's God's covenant name, His covenant name with Israel, the great I AM. This is saying that He is not only the Creator of the universe, but this is the God with whom I am in a covenant relationship.

Notice the personal pronouns here. David says, "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me." He starts this psalm in verse 1 the same way he ends it in verse 22. It's this call to bless the Lord in a personal way.

The word "bless" is used six times in Psalm chapter 103 and 330 times in the Old Testament. When it's directed toward God, it means to kneel or to bow down, to bless the Lord. It's an act of worship, an act of adoration.

When we read this word describing God interacting with man, we say He blesses us. It's not that He kneels or bows down, but rather it refers to the blessings that God affords us. Some of these blessings, some of these benefits, if you will, the psalmist is going to list as we look at the rest of this passage of Scripture.

I want you to notice something, though. Right out of the gate, as David begins writing this psalm, he's speaking internally. He's looking within, and he's compelling himself to worship the Lord.

If you know anything about David, these psalms are essentially his prayer journal. They're honest expressions

of his relationship with the Lord and how he felt in the moment. Essentially, when you read the Psalms, it's David laying his baggage before the Lord and leaving it there.

We know David. We see him in the Psalms. Sometimes he's up, and sometimes he's down. It's one of the many things we love about David and his psalms. It's why we love the Psalms, because we can identify with them. But more than just identifying with what he says, the Psalms are written in such a way, and they're so emotional, that we can identify with how he feels.

We don't know the exact context of Psalm 103. When David penned this psalm, was there something going on? We do know there was something, because he is telling himself in this moment, he's coaching himself up, to bless the Lord. Evidently, he's not feeling it in this moment.

Some of you may be experiencing what David feels today. We've come out of Thanksgiving, and you know that you have a lot to be grateful for, but the reality is you don't feel like blessing the Lord. You don't feel like worshipping the Lord.

You know you should have an attitude of gratitude. You know that you should be here with a worshipful heart today. But if you were honest, even as we were worshipping through song - and we worship in a number of different ways here; preaching the Word of God is worship, singing songs is worship, when we give, that's an act of worship, and when we serve, that's an act of worship - you may be here today, and you've served, you've given, and you've lifted up your voice in singing. But truth be known, if we could see your heart, you've just been going through the motions because you don't feel like blessing the Lord.

It could be that this Thanksgiving was a tough one for you. Perhaps it was the first Thanksgiving without that loved one sitting at their place at the table. It's hard to feel thankful. You're not even looking forward to Christmas because of how you felt at Thanksgiving. It's hard because that loved one's no longer there.

Or maybe it's a situation at the office. There's some conflict going on between you and a coworker. Maybe an employer or a boss is putting some pressure on you and riding you for something that may be outside of your control. It's hard to feel worshipful. It's hard to come into a room and feel blessed and to bless the Lord when you have that kind of pressure you're under at work. You're not even looking forward to waking up and going to work in the morning.

Or maybe you're just dry spiritually. You're not walking with the Lord as closely as you once were. You came in today, but you didn't sing from the heart because, truth be known, you'd feel like a hypocrite if you did - like a fake, a fraud.

What do you do in times like this? We all have these ups and downs, just like David. If you're a believer, David gives us a good example of what we should do. He starts coaching himself up:

*Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!*

— Psalm 103:1

We all know what it is to coach ourselves up, don't we? We've all had these inner talks with ourselves.

This past November 2, Debbie and I celebrated 23 years of marriage. I can remember when I drove to her mom and dad's house in Richardson, Texas, and had to ask her dad for his blessing to marry his daughter. I remember how nervous I was. What was I going to say? I didn't want to fumble over my words.

I can remember pulling up to that house and just coaching myself up in that moment in the car. "All right, Stephens, you've got this. We can do this. All right, Debbie is worth this. Go in there and get that blessing." I remember just coaching myself up.

Every Sunday, I coach myself up. Sitting down here on the front row, I'm making sure there's nothing in my teeth and making sure my zipper's zipped up. I'm like, "Don't blow this. Don't pronounce any words that you don't know how to pronounce. Let's go."

All of us know what it is to coach ourselves up. That's exactly what David is doing here in this moment. He knows he should bless the Lord. He knows the Lord is worthy of being blessed. Because he's not feeling it in the moment - we don't know what the situation or circumstance was surrounding him - he attempts to put jumper cables on his heart, so to speak, and he starts coaching himself up.

This is a regular pattern in David's life:

*Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation and my God.*

— Psalm 42:5

David's just talking to himself. So what do you do? We need to learn from David today. What do you do when you're not feeling like blessing the Lord? It might be the outward circumstance or the situation you're facing. It might be the particular mood of the moment, but you don't feel like bowing down and adoring the Lord. What do you do?

You do what David does. You start coaching yourself up.

Speaking of coaching yourself up, D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones was the pastor of Westminster Chapel in London for 30 years. Any preacher has read his book, *Preaching and Preachers*. He was an incredible man of God and expositor of the Scripture.

Listen to what he said about the value of coaching yourself up and talking to yourself. He said, "Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself? Take those thoughts that come to you the moment you wake up in the morning. You haven't originated them, but there they are, talking to you. They bring back the problems of yesterday, etc. Somebody is talking. Who is talking to you? Yourself is talking to you."

Now, David's treatment was this: Instead of allowing the self to talk to him, he starts talking to himself. What does he say?

*Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.*

— Psalm 103:2

He begins to list these benefits one by one. Do you remember that old hymn? We used to sing it every Thanksgiving Sunday: "Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your blessings and see what God has done."

That's exactly what David starts to do. He puts these blessings, these benefits of the Lord, into two categories.

Remember What God Has Done

If you're taking notes, write it down. First, he says, "I want you to remember what God has done."

David looks at his life and realizes God has blessed him in tremendous ways. He calls these benefits. We're going to look briefly at each of them. We'll begin to go through them verse by verse, phrase by phrase. As we go through these, if you underline in your Bible, just underline them as we get there.

Psalm 103:3 says:

Who forgives all your iniquity.

— Psalm 103:3

We're going to underline every verb in verses 3, 4, and 5. Look at the word: He "forgives" all your iniquity.

That's powerful. We can't just glance over this benefit. This is the essence of salvation. As we move into Christmas, this is why Jesus came:

You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

— Matthew 1:21

He has forgiven us of all our iniquity. Some of your Bibles translate it as simply the word "sin," but it's more than that. It actually refers not just to the sin, but to the consequences and the fallout of that sin.

Now, what it doesn't mean is that when we sin against the Lord, the consequences of our sin go away. That's not what His forgiveness means. In fact, this is why sin is so serious. This is why it should sober us to walk and live in a fear of God, because with some sin, you can live with the consequences for a lifetime.

It doesn't take away the consequences. Forgiving the iniquity is the fact that God doesn't count our sin or the consequences, the fallout, against us. He forgives the totality of our sin. This is the grace of God.

This is something that some of you need to take to heart in a personal way. You need to memorize it. If you're looking for something to memorize, you need to memorize just the first part of verse 3: God forgives all your iniquity.

Doesn't this play itself out? The enemy, Satan, is called the accuser of the brethren. Isn't this what he does

with some of us? He says, "Don't remember that God forgives your sin. I want you to remember your past sin. I want you to remember how you failed the Lord."

He wants you to remember your shame. He wants you to remember your guilt. He's constantly bringing it up, and you're in this cycle of shame that you can't get out of because you're constantly remembering your sin that God's already forgiven you of.

What the Scripture is calling you to today is not to remember your sin, but instead to remember this great benefit, this great blessing of the Lord: He forgives all of your sins.

Somebody say, "Bless the Lord." That's a good word - that He forgives our sin.

Secondly, look at the second part of verse 3:

Who heals all your diseases.

— Psalm 103:3

Underline "heals." Now, that's interesting. We can't stay here long, but obviously we've got to unpack it a little bit. We've got to put some theological parameters around this verse.

We know that God is still in the healing business. We have a First Saturday Prayer that you're more than welcome to come to on the first Saturday of every month at 8:00 at our Champions campus. We have a time of prayer at the end of that prayer gathering where, if you want prayer for physical healing, we do exactly what James 5 tells us to do. We have the elders of our church there. We will anoint you with oil, and we will pray for God to physically heal you.

It's the first Saturday of every month at 8:00. We'd love to have you join us. It's a great prayer gathering, very scaled down, but it's a great group that just shows up to pray. It's our idea of giving God a tithe of the month. If you ever want to be there, join us at 8:00 on the first Saturday of the month.

We believe that God supernaturally heals. But the Scripture says here, "He heals all our diseases," and we know that's not always the case physically. Some of us have family members who had diseases and weren't physically healed. We prayed for it, we anointed them with oil, and we did what the Scripture told us to do, yet our loved one passed away.

So what does this mean, "He heals all our diseases"?

In your study of Scripture, you should never build a theology off one verse. This is why a holistic reading and studying of Scripture is so very important. You look at that verse and ask, "What does it say within the chapter in which it's written? What does that chapter say within the book in which it's written? What does that book say within the entirety of the Bible?"

If you look at verse 3, notice it's a single verse. Healing is coupled with forgiveness. The forgiveness of sin and the healing of disease go hand in hand. Why is that? Because man's greatest disease is not in the physical realm but in the spiritual realm.

When forgiveness of sin occurs, when we enter into a personal relationship with God by trusting in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior - when we look to the cross and believe by faith that Jesus died for us on that cross, shedding His blood for us, and we put our faith and trust in His death, His burial, and His resurrection - at that time, our greatest disease is healed. Our sin is forgiven.

It's the greatest disease mankind has ever experienced. All of us have it. It's the disease of sin, and the only way we can be healed is through faith in Christ.

Physical healing is wonderful. God still does it, and should He choose to do it, we rejoice in Him. It's one of the benefits and blessings of the Lord. If you keep reading in verse 19, He's sovereign. If He chooses to physically heal, He certainly can.

But a physical healing is just a foretaste of a greater healing, the spiritual healing that God does when we come to Him by faith. Just think about it. If you don't come to Jesus by faith and you get healed physically on this side of eternity, you still have the disease of sin that plagues you, and you aren't healed of all your diseases.

But if you trust in Christ, you are healed of man's greatest disease - sin. And if you're not healed physically on this side of eternity, you'll be healed ultimately on the other side of eternity, and all your diseases will have been healed.

The Scripture says the benefit, the blessing of the Lord, is that He forgives all your iniquity and heals all your diseases, starting with the disease of sin. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that's within me.

Look at the third benefit:

Who redeems your life from the pit.

— Psalm 103:4

Underline that word "redeems" there. It's the benefit of redemption.

David thinks back over his life and remembers being saved from the pit. Some of your Bibles translate it "destruction." It's a metaphor for the grave. By faith, when our sins have been forgiven and we've been spiritually healed, we know that ultimately we'll be redeemed from destruction, from the pit. We'll have victory over sin, death, hell, and the grave.

Those who haven't been healed spiritually will go to the pit of destruction, the second death, hell, forever separated from God. But David looks at his life, and narrowly speaking, he looks back, thinking about the personal benefits of the Lord, and he says, "You have saved me from the pit. You have saved me from destruction."

Think about his life. David versus Goliath - saved. David out on the fields of Bethlehem looking after sheep - the Bible says a lion or a bear would come after him, and David fought it off and lived to tell about it. Saved.

Saul came after David and chased him into the mountains of Israel, and yet God was his refuge. He saved him time after time. Absalom, David's own son, rebelled against the king and chased him out of Jerusalem. David

lost the throne for a time, but he didn't lose his life. He had been saved from the pit, saved from destruction.

The same can be said of you. Think back on your life. If you're looking for a reason to be grateful today and to bless the Lord, think back on your life and all the times God saved you physically.

My parents tell me that when I was little - I don't remember it; I was too little - Mom went out one day to shop or do something, and she left Dad in charge. Always a mistake. Moms, don't ever leave Dad in charge.

Dad went outside to work, and when he came back in, I had made my way to the kitchen as just a little toddler. I'd opened up a cabinet, somehow opened up some aspirin, and just downed the whole bottle.

Some of you are thinking, "That's what's wrong with you. I get it now."

They took me to the hospital and pumped my stomach. I'm here to tell about it.

I remember driving to church one day with my oldest. Riley was about four at the time. For some reason, I was taking her to church that morning with me, and I was going to be there all day. I had brought a couple of changes of clothes and coats, and I'd hung them up on one side in the back of the car.

I drove a little Honda Civic, okay? It wasn't very big at all. It was like a little bullet, man.

I can remember putting Riley in the car seat, and for some reason that day, I thought, "Man, I need to tighten up this car seat." I put her in there and tightened that car seat as tight as it would go. Off we went to church.

We were going down the tollway, and I've got a heavy foot. I confess it, all right? I was moving. But we were worshipping to a song, and I was listening to my little girl in the back seat. I was watching her in the rearview mirror just sing and smile.

About that time, I looked back at the road, and there was something right in the middle of the tollway that caused me to yank the car. I lost control, and I just remember it rolling three times.

If you've ever been in a wreck like that, you know time slows down. I vividly remember that all I could muster was the prayer, "Oh God, oh God, oh God."

It landed on its tires. Boom.

When I looked back, I didn't know if Riley was even going to be in the back seat. I looked back there, and she was tied in. She just started crying and said, "Why'd the car break, Daddy? Why'd the car break?"

I got her out. Neither one of us was harmed. There wasn't a scratch on us. All the glass that had broken out of the back windows - because I'd put those clothes there earlier that day, they had wrapped up all that glass, and it was just lying right there on the floorboard beneath the car seat.

That's just a couple of times in my life that God's physically saved me. I could give you two or three others. And I can't imagine the times in our lives when God sent His ministering spirits, His angels, to us. We're not going to know until we get to the other side how many times God protected us from the pit of destruction and we didn't even know it.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

The psalmist continues:

Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

— Psalm 103:4

He doesn't just pull us out of the pit. He crowns us. He surrounds us and bestows on us His steadfast love and mercy.

"Steadfast love" is the greatest expression we have in the Old Testament for the loyalty of God toward us. It's the word hesed, His covenant faithfulness toward us. God is faithful even when we aren't. His steadfast love surrounds us. It's consistent. It's constant, as the day is long, as continual as the rising and setting of the sun.

Look at the final personal benefit in verse 5:

*Who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

— Psalm 103:5

It's a picture of an old man. Most people believe that David wrote this psalm toward the end of his life because he talks about the brevity of life here in just a moment. He talks about his strength being renewed.

It's a picture of an old man who doesn't have much natural strength left. But because of his relationship with the Lord, he's being renewed in the inner man day by day. The eagle is a picture of endurance and strength.

One of God's greatest gifts to His children is that He satisfies us with good. Anybody who's walked with God long enough knows that every good and perfect gift comes from above. Our God isn't holding out on us. He satisfies us with good.

This is a call to remembrance. Remember what God has done in your life.

As David coaches himself up, he's looking at the personal benefits and blessings of the Lord. But if that's not enough, he begins to look at concentric circles. He goes outside himself and begins to look at the people of God.

*The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.*

*He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.*

— Psalm 103:6-7

Sometimes - this is just who we are as humans - we can start looking within, and we can get so internal and so focused on our lives that even the blessings of God don't do it for us. When that occurs, it's almost like a spiritual coma, if you will. You're lethargic. You're apathetic. There's nothing in you that wants to move forward spiritually.

It's kind of like the food coma that many of us experienced Thursday, right? You ate, and you ate, and you ate. Then what did you do? Nothing. You sat down, lethargic.

Spiritually, we get like this sometimes. David says that when that happens, and you begin looking internally at the blessings of the Lord and that's not doing it for you, just go one concentric circle outside yourself. Look at how God has blessed the people of the Lord.

We could do that with Champion Forest. If we just go from being personal to corporate, and if you're a member of Champion Forest, talk about blessing the Lord and looking for reasons to bless the Lord. Look at how good God has been to us.

Last week alone, our church - all our campuses and all our language groups - baptized 83 people on Thanksgiving weekend. That's nuts. That's crazy. Eighty-three people got into the waters of baptism and stated to the world, "This is what I believe, and this is to whom I belong."

In one weekend, God is blessing us like crazy.

If you've been at North Klein long, you've seen the growth. We're having to drive people down to Fox Elementary. We've been giving you a little bit of a vision of what's next here at Champion Forest, and part of that is an expansion here at North Klein. We've got to build. We're going to be introducing this to you in January because we've got to accommodate the growth.

God is blessing us like crazy. If you're having a hard time looking within at the personal benefits of the Lord and giving God praise, then just look one circle out. Look corporately at how God is blessing His people. Maybe that'll get the fires burning.

It's personal benefits. It's corporate benefits. "God, look at what You've done."

Remember Who God Is

Then David moves from what God has done to the second section of Scripture, verses 8 through 19. If you're taking notes, don't only remember what God has done; remember who God is. It's all about the character and nature of God.

As I read verses 8 through 19, just like we underlined the verbs describing the benefits of God, we can underline the adjectives describing who God is.

Look at verses 8 through 10:

*The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

*He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.*

*He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.*

— Psalm 103:8-10

He does not deal with us according to our sins. Can I get an amen? He doesn't repay us according to our iniquities, even the consequences and the fallout of our sin. God doesn't treat us as our sins deserve.

Look at verse 11:

*For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.*

— Psalm 103:11

All these blessings, all these benefits, are directed toward those who fear God, those who are in a relationship with God.

From a New Testament perspective, that means we're part of the church. It means we've entered into a personal relationship with God by faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. That's who these blessings or benefits are for - those who fear His name. You'll see this repeated here in these next few verses.

Look at verse 12:

*As far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

— Psalm 103:12

That's amazing. East and west never meet.

*As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.*

*For he knows our frame;
he remembers that we are dust.*

— Psalm 103:13-14

He shows compassion to those who fear Him, those who are in a relationship with Him. He knows our frame. He remembers that we're but dust.

*As for man, his days are like grass;
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.*

— Psalm 103:15-16

Notice the contrast between God and man, our nature versus His. God is eternal. We're but dust.

Here's an interesting observation. We're talking about a call to remembrance on our part. We're to remember what God has done and who He is. But here the psalmist pushes pause in verse 14 and tells us that God

remembers.

What does God remember? That we're frail, weak, and made from the dust of the ground. No wonder He can have compassion on us. He knows us. He made us.

*But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.*

— Psalm 103:17-18

There it is again. Who is it for? It's for those who remember. There's our word again: those who remember to do His commandments.

*The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.*

— Psalm 103:19

Just go through it. You're looking for a reason to bless the Lord? He's merciful, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love. He doesn't treat us as our sins deserve. He separates them as far as the east is from the west. He's sovereign, compassionate, and forgiving.

My goodness, there's no wonder that Psalm 103 has inspired more hymns that we sing than any other psalm.

David remembers who God is and remembers what He's done, and it causes him to burst forth in worship. That's verses 20 through 22. He calls all of creation to worship.

When we remember, it's going to provoke a response.

*Bless the LORD, O you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his word,
obeying the voice of his word!*

*Bless the LORD, all his hosts,
his ministers, who do his will!*

*Bless the LORD, all his works,
in all places of his dominion.
Bless the LORD, O my soul!*

— Psalm 103:20-22

It's a call to remembrance for what God has done and for who He is. David knew that if we would remember these things, there would be a response.

What Remembering Does

In closing, let me give you three points of application. Here's what remembering does. Here's why it's so

important that on weeks like Thanksgiving, we don't just let them go by, but we pause to remember. Just like that old hymn says, we count our blessings.

Why is it so important? Why does God put such an emphasis on remembering?

First, remembering produces thanksgiving. There's no doubt about it. When you remember what God has done in your life, it's a perspective changer.

It's football season. I'm not going to bring up this past weekend, all right? But coaches go to the press box to get a different perspective of what's going on down on the field.

If you want a different perspective on your life, one of the things that takes you to the press box to be with God, to look down on your life and see His blessings and His benefits, is thanksgiving. Thanksgiving gets you to the press box. When you remember, it produces thanksgiving.

Remember that leper who was healed of leprosy and disease? Jesus healed ten of them, but there was only one who came back and said, "Thank You." That's thanksgiving. He remembered.

He remembered that he had once been outside the camp, and God healed him and allowed him to have fellowship with the people of Israel. He remembered that he couldn't offer a sacrifice, but God healed him, and now he could go to the temple, worship the Lord, and make a sacrifice. It caused him to come back and say, "Thank You," to the Lord.

Jesus said, "Didn't I heal ten of you? Only one of you comes back." Why? Because he was thankful.

Remembering produces thanksgiving.

Secondly, remembering produces worship. I mean, that's this psalm: "Bless the Lord, O my soul." He's trying to remember, and what is the response in verses 20 through 22? It's worship.

He begins to remember the personal and corporate benefits of the Lord, and it explodes into worship.

Look at the benedictions of the New Testament. When Paul writes those benedictions, oftentimes you see him go off: "To Him be the glory and power forever and ever. Amen." It's just Paul thinking about the blessings of the Lord, and that's what causes those benedictions to just go.

Remembering fuels worship.

I like to say it like this: If you have worship problems, what you really have is memory problems. This is why sin is so dangerous, because sin causes spiritual dementia. Sin makes you stupid.

That's why we confess our sin and walk in the fear of the Lord. As you remember the works of God in your life, it'll fuel personal and corporate worship.

Lastly, remembering strengthens our faith.

If you're weak today and not fully engaged in walking with the Lord, and you want your faith to be strengthened, this is the importance of walking down Remembrance Avenue. When you remember, you think,

"God was faithful to me way back then."

That's a great amen. It's right where I wanted it.

Scripture says that He doesn't change. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. If God was faithful then, He'll be faithful now. Do you know what that does? It strengthens your faith.

God puts an emphasis on remembering today. Why? Because He knows it's the key to producing thanksgiving in our lives, fueling worship, and strengthening our faith so that we walk with Him every day.

It's a call to remembrance. Amen.