

7-12-03
THREE THINGS WE ARE REMINDED AS
WE MEET IN A TENT THIS WEEK

In 1994 we were in the process of rebuilding our roof and our building was going to be torn apart, supposedly in the summer. This is when, in the process of my devotions, I was studying about the feast of tabernacles and started to think about the similarities to our tent meeting and this Old Testament feast. Tonight I would like to meditate on this feast just a little as we prepare for our tent meeting week

Consider some verses about this feast:

Leviticus 23:42 Ye shall dwell in booths seven days; all that are Israelites born shall dwell in booths:

Leviticus 23:43 That your generations may know that I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 23:44 And Moses declared unto the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.

Zechariah 14:16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:17 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

Zechariah 14:18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Zechariah 14:19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

II Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

II Corinthians 5:2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

II Corinthians 5:3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

II Corinthians 5:4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

Three simple points.

- I. This feast was to remind the children of Israel about their humble beginnings.
- II. This feast was to remind them about the God's chastening hand
They dwelt in tents for 40 years.
- III. This feast was to remind them about the brevity of life.

THREE THINGS WE NEED TO BE REMINDED OF THIS WEEK
BY OUR TENT MEETINGS.

I. This feast should remind the children of Israel about their humble beginnings.

Each of us came into this world in humility.

Naked, helpless. So we meet, not in air conditioned conditions, not in padded pews, but with flies buzzing and ants crawling.

It is to remind us we are made of the dust of the ground.
We enter this world naked and we leave naked.

Think about this, a Child is more helpless for a longer period of time than any other creature.

When I first came to the church about 35 years ago I was out visiting someone near Elk Mountain. I saw a new born fawn and thought I would bring it to my children as a pet.

That new born fawn. Try to outrun a new born baby deer, you can't! What human baby has that kind of protection?

Children of Israel had a humble start, they were slaves in Egypt. They were not a mighty army, they were not a well organized nation.

How soon we forget our humble roots.

When my wife and I got married we were just kids. I was 21 and my wife was 19, younger than all my children today. Now I know what my parents must have felt like with us getting married so young. When we got married we had no money, no job, nothing.
No big wedding.. humble beginnings..

Lived in a little trailer, paid \$1700.00 for it and the lot rent was \$50.00 per month.

God told the children of Israel to live in booths for a week to be reminded of their humble beginnings.

I Remember our humble beginnings.

I probably defied all human reason and advice about getting married.

We dwell in houses, but we should realize we do not even own our property.

Imagine if war broke out. Who would compensate you for a bombed out house? No insurance for war.

No insurance against terrorism. Most people in this country have a mortgage. If our home was bombed we wouldn't even have a place to put up a tent.

The feast of tabernacles was a reminder to the nation that when they left Egypt and dwelt in tents they had no property, they lived in the wilderness.
They wandered for 40 years.

II. This feast was to remind them about the God's chastening hand.
They dwelt in tents for 40 years. Tabernacles, make shift habitats.

The children of Israel griped and complained.

God chastened them because of their griping.

40 years dwelt in their booths and tents because they failed to believe God for His promises.

Often God just feeds us with food convenient and we never get to experience the blessings He had in store for us.

God has the power to give.

God has the power to take.

Nothing that we own that God does not have the power to take from us.

Our health is but borrowed.

Our wealth is but temporary.

Our bodies are but tents.

Our homes are not going to last forever.

Every now and then I have to think how fragile our lives are.

One little disaster can wipe us out, debt, problems with a vehicle, recession with our business or employment.

With one stroke everything can be taken away.

WW II Videos. The strategy of war now is to attack civilians.

The strategy is to destroy the morale of a nation. That started in WW 2.

9-11 proved that in the future this strategy will only grow worse.

So many have no time for God.

Sometimes, to get our attention, God has to set our Barley fields on fire.

No time for Church.

No time for our Lord's activities. 9-11 was a wake up call, but our nation is going back to sleep.

There is no climate change, there is only God trying to wake us up. Seems ½ of California can burn and no one wakes up. What will it take to humble us?

Luke 14:16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:

Luke 14:17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

Luke 14:18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

Luke 14:19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

Luke 14:20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

Luke 14:21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

Luke 14:22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

Luke 14:24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

We need to fear God. Don't fear a depression, don't fear a war.

Don't fear a loss of job.

Don't fear terrorists.

Fear God.

Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

III. This feast was to remind them about the brevity of life.

Life is short.

II Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

II Corinthians 5:2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

II Corinthians 5:3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

II Corinthians 5:4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

Tent, fold up, temporary dwelling.

II Cor. uses the word tabernacle. Temporary dwelling place.

Luke 12:16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

Luke 12:17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

Luke 12:18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

Luke 12:19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

Luke 12:20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Luke 12:21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Be careful you do not boast about what you are going to do 1-5 years from now.

Be careful you don't make your plans without God.

James 4:13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

James 4:15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

James 4:16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

Some day we are going to fold up our tent and move on to eternity.

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II Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

II Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

II Corinthians 5:9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

II Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

II Corinthians 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

Why did Jesus die for you? People say so we can go to Heaven.

II Corinthians 5:15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Just purchased an expensive truck. The reason we did was to drive it and make it work for us, to further the cause.

I try to buy things that are practical, don't you?

Someday we will give an account for what we have done for God.

People say, how do you like your truck? I say. I don't know, I will let you know 5-10 years from now when we see how much service it gave me.

The feast of tabernacles was a feast to remind people that this life is temporary, and someday we are going to fold up our tents and move on to the real house in heaven.

Amazing how much care we have for the temporary.

Tent meeting. Bill Stewart. A pastor wanted Brother Stewart to bring the tent to his church and he bought a carpet for the whole tent but never used it because it rained.

Our bodies are but a tent, they are designed to fold up and move on.

Our tent meetings mark the middle of the year. It is hard to believe a 1/2 of a year has gone by. After tent meeting week the rest of the year is down hill from there.

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

WHAT SHOULD WE BE REMINDED OF?

Just a little devotional tonight.

Meditate on these truths:

- I. This feast was to remind the children of Israel about their humble beginnings..
Our tent meeting should remind us of our humble beginnings.
- II. This feast was to remind them about the God's chastening hand.
They dwelt in tents for 40 years.

Our tent meeting should remind us how God could easily humble us an how we should be humbled before God.

- III. This feast was to remind them about the brevity of life.
Our tent meeting week should remind us about the brevity of our lives.