

Devotion 4:

**Our Father Wants To Be Remembered**

Exodus 1—15

In this sizeable portion of Scripture we learn many things again about our Father in heaven. For the sake of brevity, here is what I noticed:

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| 1. He is kind.                                | 1:20-21                                     |
| 2. He hears, He remembers, He is concerned    | 2:24-25                                     |
| 3. He knows our name.                         | 3:4   |
| 4. He sees our misery.                        | 3:7   |
| 5. He rescues.                                | 3:8   |
| 6. He uses human agents to deliver us.        | 3:10  |
| 7. He has a name: I Am.                       | 3:14-15                                     |
| 8. He knows what people are really like.      | 3:19; 11:1                                  |
| 9. He can change people's attitudes.          | 3:21; 11:3; 12:36                           |
| 10. He makes people deaf, mute, and blind.    | 4:11-12                                     |
| 11. He is patient and slow to anger.          | 4:1-14                                      |
| 12. He becomes upset at lack of trust in Him. | 4:14  |
| 13. He gives power to perform wonders.        | 4:21  |
| 14. He sees us as His children.               | 4:22  |
| 15. He wants us to see His mighty hand.       | 6:1   |
| 16. He speaks through human agents.           | 6:6   |
| 17. He hardens some people's hearts.          | 7:3; 9:12; 10:20; 10:27; 14:8               |
| 18. He can use nature as He wishes.           | 7:17-18; 14:21-22; 15:25                    |
| 19. He knows what will happen in the future.  | 3:19; 7:13; 8:15; 8:19; 9:12;<br>9:35; 11:1 |
| 20. He guides His children.                   | 13:21-22                                    |

There are 66 books in the Bible. In 1 1/3 books we have seen already an impressive list of over 40 qualities of our Father! He is awesome. He is huge. He is great. Our list thus far brings to mind grade school days at recess.

The details are fuzzy, but I recall arguing with my best friend about whose dad was better. We didn't get into the cliché "My dad can beat up your dad!" but I remember that a fair amount of pride was at stake. It was important to be connected to someone significant. Do you recall having a similar experience or feeling?

I'm not sure that this deep longing for connection to someone or something important and significant goes away as we age. I have heard military academy cadets and foreign missionaries say something like this: "We want to be part of something bigger than ourselves." Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, "*He has also set eternity in the hearts of men.*" I wonder: did God put this longing inside us...for Himself?

After reading Exodus 1—15, I see this recurring theme: our Father wants His name to be proclaimed in all the earth and He wants to be remembered. The idea occurs at least 9 times in these 15 chapters (9:16; 10:1-2; 11:9; 12:14, 17, 25-27, 42; 14:17-18, 30-31) and the section comes to a climax with Moses and the Israelites singing a song to God that begins with the words, *“I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted,”* and ends with the words, *“The Lord will reign for ever and ever.”* Brothers and sisters, our Dad is indeed bigger than any other dad!

This portion of Scripture is favorite Sunday school fare. We have plagues, a Pharaoh whose heart is hardened, Moses who doubts, firstborn who are killed, and the great Red Sea that is crossed. The classic American movie, *The 10 Commandments*, captures these events in memorable scenes. I wonder, though, if our Sunday school stories and Hollywood cinema have missed the *why* behind it all.

The answer to that question begins in 9:16: *“But I have raised you (Pharaoh) up for this very purpose, that I might show my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”* It continues in 10:1-2: *“Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these miraculous signs of mine among them that you may tell your children and grandchildren how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and how I performed my signs among them, and that you may know that I am the Lord.”*

Now the interesting thing is this: God says to Pharaoh after the sixth plague, *“For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth.”* (9:15) But He chooses not to do this. Why? *“And when the Israelites saw the great power the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him....”* (14:31) Our Father wanted to make it very clear who was Israel’s Daddy!

I don’t believe it is coincidence that out of this time period in Israel’s history come two of the most important traditions the Jews will have—celebrating the Passover and consecrating firstborns. Both were to remember our Father and what He had done for them. And this exhortation to remember our Father in heaven will echo throughout the rest of the Old Testament. God’s children will struggle with remembering Him and will frequently forget Him as they chase after idols.

Is our walk today any different? Like our Old Testament brothers and sisters, we, too, are enjoined to remember our Father and what He has done for us. Every time we eat Christ’s body and drink His blood in holy communion we are urged to do this in remembrance of Him. Yes, we remember Christ’s faithful obedience to our Father and His willing sacrifice for us; but we also remember that our Father passed over our sin and delivered us from deserved death and hell when He saw the blood of His only Son whom He gave out of love for the world. Therefore, our Father deserves to be remembered forever and ever.

