

June 11, 2017

Psalm 106

“God’s Faithfulness, Our Forgetfulness”

Pastor Gary Hamrick

We can all be forgetful at times, but the most serious type of forgetfulness is when we forget God – how good he is and how mighty are his deeds. In Psalm 106 we see that the nation of Israel was guilty of forgetfulness. They were discontent, dissatisfied, and disobedient toward God, which are all forms of forgetfulness, but remarkably, God was merciful, loving, and compassionate toward them. He continued to pursue them, love them, care for them, and forgive them. We need this reminder in our own lives for times that we, like the Israelites, fail God.

The Israelites Were Discontent, Dissatisfied, And Disobedient

1. [Psalm 106:7a](#) - *“... they gave no thought to God’s miracles...”*
2. [Psalm 106:7b](#) - *“... they did not remember God’s many kindnesses...”*
3. [Psalm 106:13](#) - *“... they soon forgot what God had done...”*
4. [Psalm 106:21](#) - *“... they forgot the God who saved them...”*
5. The psalm writer reviewed a lot of the history of the nation of Israel, and a lot of Psalm 106 is about their forty years of wilderness wandering.
 - a. The 40-year period in the wilderness started after the Israelites left Egypt and ended when the descendants of that generation entered the Promised Land.
6. The psalmist stated that the Israelites were guilty of sin because they were discontent, dissatisfied, and disobedient; all of which are forms of forgetfulness.

7. Pastor Gary said: “When you are discontent with your situation, you forget God. When you are dissatisfied with what you have or where you are, [you] forget God. When you are disobedient [toward God], [you forget] God.”
8. **Psalm 106:13-15** - *“But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his counsel. In the desert they gave in to their craving; in the wasteland they put God to the test. So he gave them what they asked for, but sent a wasting disease upon them.”*
 - a. There were approximately 2,000,000 men, women, and children that left Egypt, which means there was a big-time need for food and water.
 - b. God miraculously provided manna every morning, but they weren’t content with God’s provision!
9. **Psalm 106:19-22** - *“At Horeb they made a calf and worshiped an idol cast from metal. They exchanged their Glory for an image of a bull, which eats grass. They forgot the God who saved them, who had done great things in Egypt, miracles in the land of Ham and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.”*
 - a. Aaron used a tool to fashion the calf, which he created based on his understanding of Apis, the Egyptian calf-god!
 - b. Pastor Gary said: “This is indicative of the human heart. Every human being has an innate need to worship. The question becomes who or what will we worship? All of us have an innate need to pay worth to something greater than ourselves. Now, hopefully, when [we] understand who God is and when [we] accept Christ as [our] Savior, then [we will] ascribe worth to God... The people here [were] so desperate to worship but [they] were unfamiliar with who God [was] at this point, and how to worship him, [and they ended] up stooping to a level of idolatry [that] they worshiped a golden calf... They quickly forgot the God who parted the Red Sea!”
10. **Psalm 106:24-25** - *“Then they despised the pleasant land [the Promised Land]; they did not believe his promise. They grumbled in their tents and did not obey the LORD.”*
 - a. This is a reference to the report given by 10 of the 12 spies Moses sent to explore the land, which is found in **Numbers 13**.
 - b. Only Joshua and Caleb were willing to believe God and trust him to help them conquer the giants in the land.
 - c. The people believed the bad report of the ten spies because they were dissatisfied and unwilling to believe God.
11. **Psalm 106:32-33** - *“By the waters of Meribah they angered the LORD, and trouble came to Moses because of them; for they rebelled against the Spirit of God, and rash words came from Moses’ lips.”*

- a. This is a reference to the miraculous work of God, who provided water from rocks, which is found in [Numbers 20](#).
12. [Psalm 106:34-37](#) - *“They did not destroy the peoples as the LORD had commanded them, but they mingled with the nations and adopted their customs. They worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them. They sacrificed their sons and daughters to demons.”*
 - a. This is primarily a reference to the time of King Solomon, when the nation of Israel, instead of displacing the pagans, blended in with them.
 - b. One of the customs of the pagans was to sacrifice their children to false gods.
 - c. [Proverbs 6:16](#) - *“There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: ... hands that shed innocent blood...”*
 13. This psalm lists a number of the crimes and offenses of the Israelites, which would be enough to make anyone say, “That’s it, I’ve had it with you!”
 14. [Psalm 106:44-48](#) - *“But he took note of their distress when he heard their cry; for their sake he remembered his covenant and out of his great love he relented. He caused them to be pitied by all who held them captive. Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise. Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Let all the people say, ‘Amen!’ Praise the LORD.”*
 15. Pastor Gary said: “We need to heed this because we can be just as guilty ourselves. It’s easy to forget God, [and] to forget how good he is, and his mighty deeds on our behalf... So, we become discontent, we become dissatisfied, and we become disobedient, and we do things in our lives too that show we forget God. We sin against him. We do terrible things... We are guilty of shedding innocent blood [reference to abortion] too... We can have a rap list a mile long, like Israel did, and time and time again God, will forgive us and God will love us, and God [will] care about us. That’s the God we serve.”
 16. [Psalm 103:2-5](#) - *“Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits - who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things...”*

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.

2. Read [Psalm 106:1-13](#) to provide the foundation for this study.
3. Read and discuss each of the specific instances Pastor Gary shared that demonstrate how the Israelites expressed their discontentment and dissatisfaction with God. (See #8 through #12 above)
4. Read and discuss [Psalm 103:2-5](#).
5. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's remarks about how much we need to learn from the example of the Israelites and how thankful we should be for the Lord's mercy and forgiveness. (See #15 above)
6. Close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads, and ask one of the people in your group to be prepared to read and pray [Psalm 103:2-5](#).

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).