

WHAT TO REMEMBER..... Luke 22:61

"And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter.  
And Peter remembered . . . ." Luke 22:61

What would you give for a candid picture of that moment. It would be terribly enlightening and frightening to have been present. For this was the moment when everything fell together for Peter, and he saw himself as he was, a disciple of Jesus Christ. It is small wonder that he went out and wept. The encounter was only passing, but it released months of pondering and searching. Fleeting as the encounter was, it was the turning point. For Peter remembered.

We all need some steadying influence, an influence produced by remembering the deepest things. It could be that we are called today to remember some of the things we have forgotten as the the Lord looks upon <sup>us</sup> this morning

1. Remember great souls... Some of us are strengthened by remembering the great persons and the great souls we have known. There is a descriptive phrase in the OT which tells of ~~the~~ one of the great heroes. The writer says, "The spirit of the Lord clothed himself in Gideon". And that has been true since . . . The spirit of the Lord does come <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~

every generation clothed in the lives of people who<sup>2</sup>  
just by being what they are give us vivid revelatic  
of the meaning<sup>of</sup> God in human life.

Who can estimate the influence that has come  
to us, person to person, thru those whom we have  
known well or even at a distance. Think of those  
whose lives gave us our clearest understanding of  
what is real and right. Remember those from whom  
we received inspiration and whose lives served as  
a beacon for us. I remember for example a woman  
whom some of you know<sup>x</sup> who believed in me when I  
did not believe in myself. . . who accepted me  
when I was about to reject myself. And there are  
others. And you have your own set of memories  
about the great souls who have entered into your  
life.

Sometime, then when the spiritual fires on  
the altar of your heart seem to burn low, try re-  
membering those people who have meant much in mak-  
ing your life what it is . . . and what it can become

2. Remember great hours.... There are some  
great hours to be remembered too. In the familiar  
OT story of Jacob we have a timeless exmple of a  
great hour. Jacob could nver forget the barren  
place called Bethel. This was the great hour of

his life. That is where and when we laid down his<sup>W</sup> head to rest and God gave him the vision of the ladder reaching into heaven. All thru his life Jacob found his mind and heart returning to Bethel.

One time, after he had married and his family had grown, and he saw the inroads of paganism into his family life, he made a pilgrimage, saying to his family: "Let us go back to Bethel".

I'm sure that it must have looked like a forsaken place, especial y to those who did not see it thru the eyes of Jacob's experience. But it is clear that the memory of Bethel, and the altar he had erected there, was one of the great steady influences in the life of Jacob.

There are those who are here who have had great moments like that. In themselves, these experiences as viewed by others may be insignificant. But to you they were <sup>so</sup> real that all of your life was touched. I don't know what your experiences have been, but I know that all of us have had them. Perhaps only a moment in time when you were apprehended by beauty; or mybe a lengthy encounter with God thru the holy spirit. Or perhaps it was when you glimpsed the nature of love in the action of a friend, or perhaps when you discovered love in expressing it to someone

else; Or maybe it was when your mind was 4  
opened to some new truth; or it might have been  
when, in a time of great need, you were supported  
and sustained. You have had your great hours,  
you will have more of them, pray that you will be  
sensitive to them.

Trust the authentic spiritual experiences of  
your life, for one fleeting moment in the presence  
of God can be so real as to offset years of blind-  
ness and denial. Remember the great hours.

3....Remember also the great obligations.....  
All of us ought to remember some of the great ob-  
ligations and debts we have. By the time a person  
reaches his teen years, and certainly by the time  
he becomes an adult, he already is a great debtor.  
Somewhere in the lives of all of us is the accumu-  
lation of obligations which came to us from others  
and from the society and world around us. . as  
well as from the creator of life. We need to have  
an urgency about paying off these obligations. Not  
that we can pay the givers, but that we can in some  
measure assure that others receive the same gifts  
from us,

One of the myths that some live by is the idea  
of the self made man. There is no such things We

are what we are by virtue of those who have loved us, educated us, served us, and led us into a knowledge of the God and spiritual values.

I can see that one of the kinds of conversion that ought to come at the glance of our Lord is a long delayed remembering that we are debtors, each of us.

4. Remember the hours of failure.....

Not all memories are of grezt persons, nor are they of great hours, nor are they not even of great obligations.

It wasn't so with Peter. The moments described in the scripture were moments of great pain, they were moments of deep distress and soul searching. Indeed, they were moments of failure....when a man was brought face to face with his shortcomings. And we are often saved by remembering our hours of failure and shame.

The glance of Jesus must have been like the breaking of a dam when the fllods came. And remors so overwhelmed the mighty and strong Peter . . that he went out and wept. He cried when he at <sup>last</sup> ~~least~~ realized the depths of his failure, of his denial. Little did he<sup>y</sup> realize, probably, that his denial would send Jesus to the cross. Not that it would

helped not to have ~~and~~ denied him, but at least Peter could have had the satisfaction of saying he tried. But Peter was saved when he remembered.

All the pain and anguish and the remorse broke thru to him. And it saved him.

I know, and you know, there are many persons who have been restored to a second chance and redeemed to usefulness by recalling the very thing and experiences which caused them pain.

Many important and life-changing things can happen in a service of praise and celebration... for we know not what the Lord may do with us. But some things ought to happen today.

Some homes ought to come to repentance by remembering. Now they began well enough, in the first flush of ecstasy and the excitement of common goals, and with highest intention. But now there seems to be some things that have been forgotten, and the excitement and the commitment have waned and ~~now~~ have been replaced by deadly routine and warped expectations.

There are members of the church who need to remember the first passion with which they began. They need to recall the deep intent and purpose

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which led them to an initial commitment. There  
are some lives which started out with the simplicity  
of discipleship and quite without intending have  
wandered off to follow other gods . . . the gods of  
lust, or pleasure, or of acquisition.

What are you going to let God cause sto happen  
in your life today? What memory are you going to  
recall under the saving glance of our Lord. He  
is present . . . now is the time . . . for he is even  
in this very moment looking upon us. May we  
remember.