

July 8, 2007 • "Remembering the Gospel"

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Deuteronomy 6 is where we're going to be. While you're flipping there, Matt is obviously is gone this weekend. He's at a family reunion, so he asked me if I would speak for him and fill in this weekend, and I'm honored to do that. Let me introduce myself to you a little more formally. My name is Beau Hughes. My role here at the church is I serve as campus pastor for the Village Church in Denton. Let's pray before we begin. "Father, open our hearts tonight. Give us ears to hear. Ears to hear are miraculous, and so give us to hear we pray, even in the next thirty minutes as we just chat about life, as we chat about spirituality, as we chat about the gospel and what it is and who it is. Father, I pray that these things would grasp hold of our heart in a way that changes us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

Well, I got married three weeks ago. Thank you. It was a big deal for me. It was perfect actually. I mean, we've really been trying to find an adjective to describe the marriage. People have been asking, "How was it?...How were things?" It was perfect. Everything from the rehearsal to the ceremony itself to the honeymoon, it's just been perfect. And I'm not saying that, because I don't take that lightly because I've been at weddings where the ring bearer fumbles the rings and they just go everywhere. Don't ever, ever have the candle deal where people come in and light the candles with the long deal or have a little cousin deal do that that's like 8 years old. I've seen people almost light stuff on fire, they couldn't get the flame lit so they kept turning it up, not good. There's usually a hiccup or two, but honestly, the biggest hiccup we had was that I was a little bit late getting to the church, which stressed my mom out a bit. I was finishing "Oceans 13," and then we made it on over. I was trying to relax and just take the day easy. Some of you are shaking your head at me. I was just trying to take the day and be calm and just prepared and not waste a whole lot of energy. And so I was late, but that was the only hiccup; the rest of it was perfect. And I'm really glad, because we spent more time in premarital counseling than any other couple I've known. And so, I'm really glad it paid off. It was just a great, great thing. But what I've discovered about that weekend was one of the things premarital counseling doesn't prepare you for...and I really don't think it can. I had some buddies, most of my groomsmen are married. And so they kind of helped me with this, but one of the things that happens when you're married is in the service itself, it's just a blur. It's so surreal, it's like somebody puts it on fast forward and one minute, the way we did it, I walked out from the side and the Reverend Matt Chandler was leading us and then the groomsmen were behind me and the next thing I know I'm kissing the bride. I don't what happened; it just vanished. It's just like a phantom. I mean, it just was there and it was gone. And so, I remember getting to the church and I remember leaving the reception and people throwing stuff at us, and in between, it's just this kind of thing where I'm like, "What happened? Where did it go? What in the world happened to those two hours?" I didn't even get to try the cake except when she was putting in my mouth and smearing it on my face. I didn't even get to try it. And so, what in the world happened? And I don't think that there's any way you can really prepare for that. I mean, people can tell you about that. And if you've experienced a graduation or anything like that, I'm sure the birth of a child's kind of like that, it's just this surreal thing. But it really, really was.

And just as I've been thinking about that, just dwelling on it the last couple of weeks, what's really interested me is how similar, I believe, for many of us our faith journeys are to that. Like for many of us, spirituality is such this surreal "now you got it/now you don't" kind of a deal for us. And as I thought through, and honestly what got me thinking about this was, Matt just finished a series called "Heart Matters," and if you've been here, you've heard it. And everybody has been raving about that series. And I think it was a great series. I think Matt is the best communicator on the face of the planet, hands down. But we've been raving about that series and everybody I talk to is like, "How's it

going? How's your spirit life? What's going on?" I meet with a lot of people and "It's great. This sermon really talked to me. And this thing really did this." And everybody's raving about the open hand/closed hand thing. And it's great and it's good and we need to and we need to take that and we need to digest it and we need to apply it. But undoubtedly in two weeks, it's going to be gone. It's going to be gone, it's going to be lost and we're not going to know what happened. And it's just going to have vanished like a phantom. I think so many of us live our lives and practice our spirituality on this roller coaster that's just up, down, up, down, up, down. God stirs our affections, and then they're gone. God convicts us of sin, and then it's gone. And so, what I want to do just really briefly today...and I promise you that this is not a profound sermon. So if you want profound, you came to the wrong place. If you want profound, go read Edward's "Resolutions." I'm not the profound guy tonight. But here's the deal. I think that's good, because maybe that eliminates one more excuse of why we won't apply what we hear tonight. But all I want to do tonight is ask the question: What happens in the ten minutes between the "Amen" in the sermon and the moment we put the keys in the ignition in the car and drive home? What happens between Sunday and Tuesday morning? What happens between that moment where God gets a hold of our soul and pours into us such life and such joy and the next morning? What happens? And what's the remedy for that not happening, for that not to be a phantom but to be some reality that we walk and breathe and live every day?

And here's another thought just before we even begin. I was meeting with someone this week, and they said I could share this. They're coming out of a homosexual lifestyle and really just coming out of that and battling that and fighting that. And I asked him what was going on in his life. And he just talked about how things had been good, and this sermon series had just been so good for his heart and how God's nailed him. His statement to just kind of sum it up was, "You know, I'm just finding out that I'm really a baby when it comes to this walking it out, day by day stuff." And I think so many of us are there. And I understand that because I feel like a baby too. And what you'll learn is, the more you know, the more you know that you don't know in this thing. The closer to God you get, the further away He seems to be. But man, we don't want the testimony of this church to be "It's a great place. Nobody can feed themselves, but it's a great place." Chandler does a great job; he's really inspiring. We don't want to be a place where we live week to week, week to event, event to week.

And so, what do we do? And the good news is, this isn't a new problem. In fact, it's been around for about 3,500 years. And so, let's go to Deuteronomy 6. If you don't know anything about the book of Deuteronomy, let me just catch you up before we dive in. Moses is the central character, the central human character in the Hebrew Scriptures, meaning our Old Testament. He's the central character in the central story of the Hebrew Scriptures. And the central story of the Hebrew Scriptures is that the Israelites were in captivity, in bondage in Egypt, they were in this land that wasn't their own, they were sojourners, they were aliens, they were the oppressed, the down trodden, the poor, the neglected of society. And God calls this man, Moses, this priest, this prophet, this man that would come from being a shepherd to being a leader of a nation. He calls this man from the womb. He saves him actually from genocide from the womb, and He puts him in charge of leading the nation of Israel out of bondage, out of slavery, out of Egypt and into the Promised Land that God had promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And so, that's where we're at. And Moses does this, and he leads the people for forty years through the desert. I mean, they see amazing things. I mean, even in the way that they got out of Egypt, God led them in amazing, miraculous ways. There is one miracle that God did in Egypt in rescuing His people in where the whole land just went completely dark. I mean, I can't even fathom that. Like, I can fathom a million frogs, I can fathom a lot of bugs, I can fathom cattle dying, I can even fathom firstborn sons dying somewhat. I can fathom that. I can't fathom putting your hand in front of your face and not being able to see it in the middle of the day. I can't fathom that. And so, these are people that had seen amazing things and walked with the Lord very closely. And Moses has led them and

they're about to enter the Promised Land. And there was one moment in Moses' life that God keeps reminding Moses of. Moses was disobedient to the Lord in one moment, and God says, "Hey man, because you did that, you're not going to get to lead them into the Promised Land. I'll let you see it, and so here's what I want you to do. I want you to come up on this mountain, and then your boy, Joshua, he's going to lead them in. And you're going die and fall asleep and go to the fathers, but you're not going to get to go." And so before Moses dies he writes the book of Deuteronomy, which is kind of his manifesto. It's kind of a summary of the Hebrew Torah. It's kind of a summary of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. It's kind of just, "Hey, this is where you've been. I want to remind you of where you've been, and this is where you're going." And as Moses tells us in here, you're going to see that it sounds like he's talking to a people that's very similar to us, meaning that they've seen God do some amazing things, they've had some amazing experiences with God, but they just have this tendency to wander away from Him, even though they know Him. Which kind of cripples the whole idea that "If I could just see God do some miracle, it would be easier." Okay, the Israelites saw God do the miracles, and they were still prone to wander, so much so that the most active descriptors of these people is that they have a rebellious, stiff-necked, stubborn heart. They're just a stubborn people. They're just a people who live with God one day and in the next day, they're completely somewhere else and God's nowhere to be found and they're worshiping a golden cow. And Moses is going to speak to this, because he knows they have this problem. So he's going to speak to this. And in speaking to this, I think it speaks to us right where we're at.

Starting in verse 1, he says this, "*Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the rules that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.*" And so he's basically going, "Hey, this is what God told me to tell you. I know that you're going over here, I know that you have a tendency to forget stuff, I know that you have a tendency to wander away from the Lord. Here's what God wants me to tell you." And he says the central prayer of Israel, and rabbis today still quote this numerous times a day. He says, "*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.*" Now I don't even know what that means, but I'm getting the idea that this is pretty important. If he's saying, "Hey, I want you to put frontlets between your eyes that say this stuff," that's important. He's trying to communicate with them here. "*You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you—for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.*" And so Moses, he's writing pretty strong here. This is a pretty strong exhortation. And what he says to these people, these people who are prone to wander, these people who have experienced God, who see God but yet for some reason and somehow they have a tendency to end up real far away from Him.

He's saying, "Remember. Remember the gospel. Remember these things that I'm telling you. Remember the story. You were in Egypt, you were enslaved, you were downcast. Remember that God came and got you and He led you out of that. And now He's leading you into a land flowing with milk and honey. Remember. Teach Him to your children. Get your children in the same room, sit them down and teach them so they won't forget. Get a pen, go to your doorpost and start writing out these things so you don't forget. Get a bracelet and put it on your arm, so that every time you look down at your wrist, you'll see it and you won't forget. Don't forget. Remember. Hey, you want to not do what you've been doing? You want to not be rebellious? You want to not do (as Deuteronomy is later going to say) be a proverb to all the other nations of God's wrath? Remember what God told you. Remember to love Him with your whole heart. Remember your story. Remember where you came from. Remember that you didn't plant these vineyards, you didn't buy these houses, you didn't do anything. Remember. Because if you don't remember, it's going to go really, really, really bad and your spirituality is just going to go near, far, near, far, out of sight, out of mind. And if you do that, God's jealous. If you neglect the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, don't think He's going to enjoy the milk and honey without Him, without Him getting credit." And Moses says, "Remember!"

Flip to Matthew 28. We know Moses wasn't the greatest prophet. In fact, Moses was a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ, and here's what I mean by that. Moses was the great prophet, the great priest that would come and lead the people of Israel out of bondage. And in all of that, not only was God saving His people physically but He was painting a picture that was foreshadowing the coming of the messiah, who we know to be Jesus Christ. And so, Jesus Christ comes and He is the fulfilled prophet; He is the greater Moses as the Bible would say, that has come not only to lead us out of physical destruction and physical slavery, He's coming to lead us out of spiritual dejection as well. And so, Jesus Christ becomes the greater Moses. And Jesus Christ becomes the greater prophet, the greater priest, the greater shepherd, the one who comes and restores and, as Luke 4 tells us, He sets the captives free. Basically, it's just a replay of the story we just read, where Jesus comes on the scene and does exactly what Moses had done, only in a greater way. And He says, "Hey, I know these people are in need of help, they're in need of deliverance. I have come to deliver you. Believe in Me. I am the Christ." And He does so with signs and with wonders, never just to show his might but always to symbolize who God is. And He comes and He delivers these people by dying. He delivers these people by laying His life down, sacrificing His life, getting on a tree, letting men spit on Him and beat Him and mock Him. And he goes to the cross and He dies. And as we know, His disciples get really scared because they don't know what's going on. They, like the people of Israel, have this heart where one day they're close to Jesus; the next day they're far away. One day they seem to understand who Jesus is; the next day they go, "Who are You? Like I know You're walking on water. What's going on?" And one moment they believe in Jesus; they say, "Hey, I'll never leave you;" the next moment they're running away from little girls because they're scared. And these are people just like the story of Israel. So Jesus comes to help them. And actually, He raises from the dead, He comes back and they're still in disbelief. And He says, "Hey, where'd you go? It's been three days and you already forgot. It's been three days, and you've already gone from this spiritual high of 'Let's have dinner together and celebrate and sing hymns and go on walks and talk philosophy and theology'" to 'I'm going to be out of here.'" And He rises from the dead and He meets them. Actually, He meets these two women first and they freak out, which I would have freaked out too if I saw a guy die and then he's right there. They freak out, and He says, "Hey, don't freak out. It's Me, I'm okay, I'm alive. Here's what I want you to do. I want you to go get the disciples wherever they are and bring them back to Me. I'll meet you in Galilee. And this is where we pick up the story in verse 16. *"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted."* Which is must mind-boggling to me. And here again, this just breaks the back of that thought of "If I could just see a miracle, if I could just see someone die in the electric chair and then come back to life and hang

out with me, I would believe.” No, you wouldn't. Because they doubted. And Jesus came, and this is what He said to them. He's about to ascend, He's about to go back to the Father, He's about to leave them. This is His last word to the disciples, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* So here's Jesus, these disciples have been afraid, they've kind of been up and down and here and there, and He gets them together and says, “Listen, I'm not going to be back until I come back in My glory. And so, here's what I want you to do. I want you to make disciples, and I want you to baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. And here's part of how you're going to do that. I want you to just tell them everything that I told you. I want you to get them together, and I want you to remind them of what I taught when I was on earth. I want you to do the things I did, say the things I said and I want you to remind these people of who I was. I want you to give them a picture of who I was, ask them to believe in Me, help them to grow in the faith, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. That's what I want you to do. I want you to do that. The Holy Spirit's going to come, He's going to help you, but in essence, what I want you to do is remind them of everything that I taught and everything that I did so that they won't forget Me, so that they will believe. I want you to remind them. And I want you to remind yourselves basically. Because the best way to learn is to teach.” And teachers know that. The best way to learn is to teach. And so every time they teach, they're reminded. Every time they teach, it goes a little deeper. Every time they teach, it becomes a little bit more a part of who they are. He said, “I want you to remember; I want them to remember. They have to know this stuff. If they don't know this stuff, we're not going to be able to make disciples, we're not going to baptize. It's just not going to happen. It's going to happen when you teach them to observe and obey everything that I've said. That's what's going to happen.

One more. Flip to 1 Corinthians 11. So the disciples went out and did this, and a man named Paul joins the ranks of the apostles. And he does this as well. And so, they go and establish the church. They go and start building these communities founded and built on what Jesus said, what He did, what He taught. They built these communities that get together and remember the Christ, remember who He is. And some of these communities are just like us. That's what's great about this story. They really were passionate, but like this community in Corinth that we're about to read about. Corinth would be a modern day Seattle. It's a port city, there's a lot of people coming through, a lot of currency, a lot of economic stuff going on, a lot of people from different races, different tongues. This is just a melting pot of culture, this port city where Paul establishes a church. And these people who start off built and founded what Jesus said, what He did, somewhere along the way they lost it. Somewhere along the way they forgot what they were doing and they lost it. And so Paul, writing in this letter, says a lot of things, but one of the things he's going to say is, “Hey, you're not doing this right.” And he's speaking directly to the central part of their worship when they would meet together and take communion together. They were taking communion together, and literally, people were getting drunk off of the communion wine. “Okay, you forgot what Jesus said if you're getting tipsy off the communion wine. You've just forgotten.” Some people are eating while other people are starving. It's just this thing going on where they're not doing it right. They've started off well, and they're not doing it right. They've just wandered off the beaten track. And so, here's what the apostle Paul says to them in chapter 11, starting in verse 23. *“For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.”* So Paul writes them a letter and he says, “Listen, you're way off base.

Let me remind you what the Lord Jesus Christ said. He told His disciples, 'You need to remember Me. Remember the gospel. Remember My blood. Remember My body. Remember that they drug Me through the streets, naked for everyone to see, outside of town, mocking Me, spitting on Me, kicking Me. Remember that. It's not a cute cup, it's not a cute bread, it's not good; just remember that. Remember the gospel. Remember the nails being driven through my hands. Because you've failed to meet the holy requirement of God, because God ways here and your ways are here. You remember that I came and I reconciled that. Remember that. You want to clean up your church? Remember the gospel. Remember God is holy and you're not. I died on a cross and rose from the grave. Remember. Because if you forget that, you've forgotten the gospel, you've forgotten what this whole thing's about. And fine, go your programs. Go share your faith. Those things aren't bad. Come sing songs. 'You're everything...You're all I need...!' Go sing songs. You wanna know what I want more than that? I want you to remember the gospel. And I'm not talking about remember like you remember to get a card for Mother's Day, like you remember your appointment with the doctor on Tuesday morning. I want you to remember in such a way that this will change your community. If you will remember the gospel, it will change your community.'"

And so here we are. It's such a profound moment. What happens between Matt's "Amen" and Tuesday morning? We forget. We absolutely forget. And I'm not even going to talk about what that says about us. That's a different sermon; Matt does a better job at that kind of stuff better than anybody I know. I'm going to let him do it. But honestly, what does that say about us? That we can forget the gospel, that it takes us 30 minutes to forget? That we go from communing with an almighty God to building altars and worshipping a different god? We forget. And here's the deal. Our culture is set up to where we don't have to remember anything. You set your alarm clock so you don't have to remember what time to get up. It goes off, it wakes you up. You put the bread in the toaster. You don't have to remember when to go put it up. It does it automatically, because if it didn't, you'd forget and it would burn. You don't have to remember what's going on in the world. The newspaper reminds you. You don't even have to remember what day it is. You don't have to remember anybody's phone number. Honestly, the only phone numbers I remember are pre-cell phone. Those are the only ones I've got memorized. I know my wife's phone number. Other than that, I'm struggling. You don't have to remember phone numbers; we can enter in the phone number, the address, the birthday. We can put that all in; we don't have to remember it. Just pull it out and there it is. We don't have to remember when we're meeting with people. Microsoft Outlook – "15 minutes, you've got a meeting." You don't have to remember. Most of us can't even remember where we put our car keys. And the Scriptures are telling us to remember the gospel. And so if you're like me, you're going, "Great, thanks for the encouragement, Beau. How in the world do I do that?" What would it even look like to remember. It's such a vague kind of term, and I'm not going to try to define it tonight because I think you know what I'm talking about. But how do you remember?

The best way that I can think that I can help you is that, when I lived in Portland, Oregon...I lived in Portland for 4 years. I was a youth pastor and worked at a church up there. I dated Kimberly, who's now my wife, I dated her long-distance. And that's "long-distance." So anytime people get up here and go, "Oh, we dated long-distance. It was like College Station to Dallas," I'm like, "Please, that's not long-distance. That's next door. Portland, Oregon to Lubbock, Texas is long-distance." And those two places are the most opposite places you can think of. Anyway, I dated her long-distance. And you know what's weird? If you've ever dated anybody long-distance outside of the state, where you couldn't visit them every weekend, you literally begin to forget what that person looks like. It's weird. And my girl looks good. And so you would think I would be able to remember that, but you really just begin to forget. And so, what I would have to do just so I wouldn't forget what she looked like, who she was, is I would put little things that reminded me of her everywhere. I mean, if you got my cell

phone out, what you would see on the screen saver was a picture of her face. Because I would forget. I mean, I would be talking to this person hours on end, every single day, but there's just something about being with somebody and knowing their body language and knowing what their eyes look like when they're shining in the light, just knowing all these things. You just forget. And so, if you turned on my phone, you'd see a screen saver with her on it. Hop into my car and you would see a little picture right next to speedometer. Not that I ever looked down there, but you would see a picture of her there. If you would look down on my wrist, you would see a hair band that she would wear that I stole from her so that I could remember her. Anything I could do to remember her, I did. And it's not because I'm Mr. Romantic. Just ask her. I'm not that guy. I'm trying to be better. She thinks I'm creative, but I'm not. So I had to do this. It was imperative for me to do this. If I didn't do this, something in my heart would begin to leak out. I'm telling you, the days that I didn't look down or I didn't think about this or I didn't have any time to do this, it was gone. I mean, it was like a phantom. And I would have to literally sit on the phone and go, "Who am I talking to?" It was hard, so hard that we broke up eventually. It was just a hard, hard deal, but it was imperative. It wasn't a choice.

And I don't think this is a choice either in our faith. I don't think remembering the gospel is some choice, not if you really want to be a disciple. And listen, when God asks us to remember, it's like that weird aunt of yours asking you to remember to send your address to her. It's not like He needs that and He's going, "Oh, I need you to remember Me, because if you don't My self-esteem is going to be hurt and I just need you to do this." He's just going, "If you don't do this, I promise you, it will go bad." And at best you'll live sermon to sermon and just wonder why you're so disappointed, wonder why you're you can't feed yourself and sit in my office and go, "Man, I just don't know to do this." Well, what do you think about all day long? For most of us, it's ourselves. We're just absolutely addicted to ourselves. We get up, we go look in the mirror, we look and see how we look, we get ready, we think about what we're going to wear, we think about what we've got to do today, we think about whether or not we brushed out teeth before we got in the shower. I mean, it's just all about us. Even the most minuscule thing, it's just about us. And if we do remember Christ, it's like we remember Him just for the moment. It's not like we take time to really organize our lives so we can breathe deep the gospel. And so I don't know what it looks like for you. Memories are weird. Something that would remind me of Christ probably wouldn't remind you of Him. Like, something that reminds me of my childhood, that same memory isn't going to remind you of your childhood. It's just not. There's some universal things that we can all do. We can all pray, we can all read and search the Scriptures, we can all get into community. We can do all these family traits, and we should be doing them. But you specifically, in your world, at your job, what does it look like? How do you do this? What helps me remember is I love reading things about suffering, in third world countries, things Christians are suffering for the faith. Not because I'm sadistic, but when I read those things, I get so overwhelmingly hopeless. I get hopeless when I read about the child soldiers in Sudan. I get hopeless when I go to downtown Dallas in rush hour and think about how many people are driving around and walking around, getting off work. I get hopeless when I think about people who are suffering in such numbers that, "What can I do? I'm going to adopt a Compassion kid and I'm going to love him and I'm going send him gifts and I'm going to know his name." And because I'm so hopeless, the only thing that will help is the gospel. And so, it makes me remember the gospel. I have to remember the gospel or I'll be depressed. Another thing that does it is going to dinner with good friends, having a nice dinner, good friends, no phones, it's not busy. We did this last night. We just went out to dinner and had a great time. There's just something about that that helps me remember. Because it's just good, and you're like, "Golly, this is great. God had to have created this taste. God had to have created friendship. Another thing is I like watching the History Channel. This is my list, not yours. This is my things that make me remember. I just like the History Channel; I'm a dork, that's fine. It just helps me, reading about the history. When I watch a show about Alexander the Great, I'm not just going, "Alexander the Great, cool guy." I'm

thinking, "You know what's amazing? God used this wicked, sinful idolater to conquer a ton of nations, unify them in language and thought so that when the gospel was ready to go, it spread like wildfire." When I read history, I read it from that slant, and I love it. And it makes me remember like, "God's really smart."

I'm glad I had good groomsmen at my wedding, because most of them are 4-5 years older than me and so they're a life stage ahead of me. It's just always been that way. God's been really great. And so, most of them are married. I think all of them but two are married. And so, before we got into the ceremony, they warned me as best they could that it was going to go really fast, the fast forward button is about to go on. And they got around me, and they just prayed for me. And they prayed that I would take from that ceremony moments that I would remember, moments that I would remember two weeks from the ceremony when things aren't going so great with Kimbo and I, that I could have that memory to stoke my passion for her. And I came out, and all I remember was the reverend Chandler stood in front of me and just leaned over and was like, "Kimberly's about to come out the back." And it was a long aisle. She was about come out, everybody's standing up, the bridesmaids have come and gone to the side. And here I am, and Matt leans over and says, "Drink it in, baby. Drink it in." I took that to mean, "Remember this moment that's about to happen." And so, I'm him tonight with you. I'm just leaning in and going, "Remember."

I wrote down a prayer, and I just want to read this over you and pray for you. And maybe we could just unite in this prayer tonight. "Father, what would happen if we, Your people actually remembered to remember the gospel on a day to day, moment to moment, thought to thought basis? What would become of our sanctification if the weight and the majesty of the gospel came crashing down on our souls more than once a week? Father, give us the courage to imagine this, the humility to pray this and the discipline to run after this. And Father, I ask for my brothers and sisters in here whose whole spirituality could be defined as a roller coaster, just this thing that happens as they bounce from high to high, from good day to bad day, with no consistency, no feeling that they're ever free from that thing that just keeps our hearts walking away from You even though we know You're better mentally. But Lord, I pray that, in Your mercy, You would help us. And I pray that even as we leave tonight that we don't run out of this room and run away from You and get in the car. Maybe we just sit here and think about what it means for us to recall the gospel, the very center of who we are. God, show us what it takes to remember the gospel, to remember You. And it is our confession tonight, whether we believe it or not, it's a fact that if we don't remember it, we will remember something else and we will love something else more than we love You. And we don't want that, so help us. Help us this week as we drive. Help us this week as we deposit a check. Help us this week as we read a story to our kids. Help us this week as we hang out with friends. Help us this week as we do whatever we're going to do. Help us. My heart, O Lord, is so prone to wander. Bind it to Yourself we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen."