

NOT A MOMENT

Two weeks ago, I preached on a Christ-centered life, and how important it is to have Jesus as our key focus in life and not other things, which can easily become idols.

As we read the Bible, something quite amazing becomes apparent. Did you know that we, as God's children, are at the center of His focus? Sometimes the troubles and pressures of life bring us to a point where we don't feel that way, we may feel forgotten by God, we may feel like He is not close.

Today I'm here to remind you that **there is not a moment where God forgets about us, or gets distracted from us.**

MESSAGE

Isaiah 46:1-10 (NKJV) Bel bows down, Nebo stoops; Their idols were on the beasts and on the cattle. Your carriages were heavily loaded, A burden to the weary beast. 2 They stoop, they bow down together; They could not deliver the burden, But have themselves gone into captivity. 3 "Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, Who have been upheld by Me from birth, Who have been carried from the womb: 4 Even to your old age, I am He, And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you. 5 "To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal And compare Me, that we should be alike? 6 They lavish gold out of the bag, And weigh silver on the scales; They hire a goldsmith, and he makes it a god; They prostrate themselves, yes, they worship. 7 They bear it on the shoulder, they carry it And set it in its place, and it stands; From its place it shall not move. Though one cries out to it, yet it cannot answer Nor save him out of his trouble. 8 "Remember this, and show yourselves men; Recall to mind, O you transgressors. 9 Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure.

NEVER A MOMENT

See this picture painted in Isaiah 46... God's people have started trusting in foreign gods and worshipping their idols!

The people's experience when worshipping false gods:

- The false god's Bel and Nebo bow down and stoop – before what? Before the Living God!
- The man-made idols used to worship them are heavy and expensive (made from silver and gold, the oxen are loaded by them and even in their great strength, these idols are a heavy burden.

- The people take the idols with them for protection, but Cyrus takes the people captive with their idols and everything – the false gods could not protect the people from bondage, but went into bondage with them!
- The people pray to them, but the idol is static, it cannot move, and it cannot answer!

These idols are man-made, they have to be carried, their burden is great and they cannot save!

The people's experience when worshiping the living God:

Our God is just the opposite:

Isaiah 46:3-4(NKJV) "Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, Who have been upheld by Me from birth, Who have been carried from the womb: 4 Even to your old age, I am He, And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you.

- Our God made us, He created us, we had nothing to do with us.
- He doesn't need our silver and gold... Psalm 50:12 says that the world is His, and all that is in it – He owns everything!
- Our God has carries us... even since before we were born, and He will continue carrying us even into our old age.
- Our God bears our burdens – His yoke is easy and His burden is light.
- Our God saves us and delivers us from trouble.

What difficulties and troubles are causing you to bow down under their heavy weight today?

- ***Seeking answers in the wrong place just costs us.***
- ***It's time to start standing on the promise we have because we serve the Living God!***

Hebrews 13:5(NKJV) For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

False gods are powerless and unable to help us, but our God, YHWH, the Great "I AM" is more than able. There is **never a moment** in our life when He fails us. He is always caring for us, He is always for us and He promised to never leave nor forsake us!

YOU ARE MINE!

Isaiah 43:1-3a(NKJV) But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. 2 When you pass through the

waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. 3 For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Saviour;

- Our God is our Creator – He knows us intimately.
- Our God is our Redeemer – He called us personally, by name!
- When difficulties, trials and tribulations come our way, He says, "Don't be afraid, I am with you and this trial will not overwhelm nor destroy you. I will save you"

Isaiah 43:4(NKJV) Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honoured, And I have loved you; Therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life.

We are precious to the Lord, He has honours and loves us, He gave His son for us, we are His, and He will take care of us today.

If there is any doubt in our mind this morning of our value to God?

- ***We belong to God!***
- ***Think of who God gave in exchange, as a ransom for us! He gave Jesus, His only begotten Son!***

WE ARE THE CENTER OF HIS VISION

Deuteronomy 32:9-12 (NKJV) For the Lord's portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance. 10 "He found him in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye. 11 As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings, 12 So the Lord alone led him, And there was no foreign god with him.

What does this mean – to be the apple of one's eye?

The pupil in the center of one's eye is called the "apple". Its great value and careful protection by the eyelids automatically closing when there is the least possibility of danger made it the emblem of that which was most precious and jealously protected. The Hebrew terms for it were, 'ishon, diminutive of 'ish, "man", probably from the little image one sees of himself when looking into another's pupil"

- We are God's portion!
- We **are God's most precious possession.**
- We are right at the center of His vision; His eye is always on us.

- What happens when something comes near our pupil? We automatically close our eyes – it's quick, we say "in the blink of an eye".
- He guards and protects us fiercely and jealously.
- He hides us under the shadow of His wing.

Psalm 17:8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye; Hide me under the shadow of Your wings,

Zechariah 2:8 For thus says the Lord of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.

- The enemy will try to destroy our self-image through the things people say, through failures, and even by messing with our own thoughts about ourself. God's word promises that He will deal with those who plunder us.
- We look after our precious possessions by locking them away or putting them in a safety deposit box. God looks after us, His precious possessions by hiding us under the shadow of His wings!

Do you feel like God doesn't see you?

- ***Remember that we are right at the center of His vision!***
- ***We are His most precious possession – He constantly keeps and protects us!***

NOT FORGOTTEN!

Sometimes, when we face ongoing and long term sickness, financial problems or other challenges, it is possible to start feeling like God has forgotten us. But the Bible says that's not the case:

Isaiah 49:15 (NKJV) "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you."

But you may say, "you don't understand, I have sinned, I have caused God to forget me". The Bible has an answer for that too!

Isaiah 44:21b-22(NKJV) "... O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me! 22 I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, And like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."

God does not forget His people, He sent His Son and dealt with our sins. They are cleansed, washed away in the precious blood of Jesus.

Do you feel forgotten by the Lord ?

- ***Stand on what His Word says, say it, "I am not forgotten by God".***
- ***Today, the Lord speaks to us and says, "I have not forgotten you, therefore, don't forget Me. Rather return to Me."***

Our Father is with us right now, He has not forgotten us. He says, "don't run from Me child, come to me, I will hold you close in my everlasting arms!"

CONCLUSION

There is never a moment in our life when God fails us. He is always caring for us, He is always for us and He promised to never leave nor forsake us!

- Today He wants to carry us and save us.
- Today He wants to remind us that we are His.
- We are at the very center of God's vision – we are His most precious possession! He jealously protects us.
- He has not forgotten us. Even if we slipped up and sinned, He made a plan and sent His son to pay for our sins. He has not forgotten us.

And finally, our God never gets tired.

Isaiah 40:28 (NKJV) Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

Isaiah 40:29 & 31 (NKJV) He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. 31 But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Let us run to our amazing God this morning. He cares and He won't let us down.