

Then Understood They

I. Introduction:

A. There are warnings throughout the Scriptures about forgetting our Lord, His word, etc. (**Deuteronomy 4:22-23**, **Proverbs 3:1**, and **James 1:21-25**).

1. Some forgetfulness comes about because of changes in circumstances and spiritual negligence (**Deuteronomy 6:4-12**).
2. Some forget through bad influence (**Jeremiah 23:25-27**).
3. There are those who do not want to retain God in their knowledge and that leads to their inability to understand (**Romans 1:28-32**).

B. Throughout this lesson, be mindful that understanding and remembering often tie together (**Proverbs 4:5**).

1. Learning requires one to remember things (**II Peter 3:1-2**).
2. Spiritual growth is a step up system rather than learn this while forgetting that (**II Peter 1:1-13**).

II. Body: Consider What Contributed To Their Lack Of Understanding (**Matthew 16:1-12**).

A. The disciples had previously witnessed the feeding of the of the five thousand plus (**Matthew 14:13-21**) and of the four thousand plus (**Matthew 15:32-39**).

1. They lacked recollection that kept them from understanding. That continued to be a problem going forward (**Luke 24:1-8**; cf. **Matthew 20:18-19** and **Luke 9:22**).
2. Furthermore, had they recalled their own history, would they really have thought Jesus was concerned about a lack of bread (**Exodus 16:1-17**)?
3. Had they recalled what Jesus originally taught them when He sent them out to teach, would they have thought this was about not having bread (**Matthew 10:5-15**)?

B. Remembering is vital (**Psalms 78:1-8**, **Psalms 119:90-93**, and **I Corinthians 15:1-2**).

1. Teaching includes bringing to remembrance (**Acts 20:28-31**, **I Timothy 4:6**, and **Jude 1:5**; **1:17-19**).
2. We need to remember to be able to tie things together (**Luke 24:44**).
3. Remembering aids in understanding and focus (**II Timothy 2:1-13**).
4. We need to remember to worship God correctly (**Psalms 97:12**, **Isaiah 25:1**, and **I Corinthians 11:23-26**).
5. Even repentance from sin includes remembrance (**Revelation 2:1-7** and **Revelation 3:1-6**).

C. Consider some applications...

1. If you remember that Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled before the New Testament was in full effect (**Matthew 5:17-19**); that keeps you from misunderstanding Old Testament prophecies (i.e. you'll know verses like

Isaiah 13:9 CANNOT be about the end of the world; in addition to context; **Isaiah 13:1**).

2. If you remember that only the Father knows when Christ will return and the world will end, you'll understand that no Scripture tells when Jesus is coming (**Mark 13:31-32**).

3. If you remember Jesus will never be on earth again (**I Thessalonians 4:13-18** and **Hebrews 6:20; 7:22-24; 8:1-4**), you'll understand that any doctrine putting Christ back on earth is false.

4. If you remember the world is evil (**I John 5:19**), you'll understand how cautious you need to be (**Proverbs 14:15** and **Ephesians 5:15-17**).

5. If you remember that you must prove [test; discern] what is acceptable unto the Lord (**Ephesians 5:10**); you'll understand that your way is not the right way (**Proverbs 16:25**, **Proverbs 21:2**, and **I Corinthians 4:6**).

6. If you understand that sin is found in the multitude of words (**Proverbs 10:19**), you'll remember not to talk too much (**Proverbs 17:27-28** and **James 1:19**).

III. Conclusion: Let's be the people of understanding that we ought to be (**Proverbs 16:22** and **Proverbs 19:8**).