



Forget

As they had their pasture, they became satisfied, and being satisfied, their heart became proud; therefore they forgot Me.

Hosea 13:6

God is invisible, so it is really easy to act like He is not there. When life is going great, when all needs are met and wants are supplied, when there are ready funds in the bank, when friends are plenty, when opportunities for merriment and relaxation abound, how quickly our hearts forget our Maker. Satisfaction causes amnesia.

We have seen this played out in our country over the last 200 years. Just like the nation of Israel, we depended on God when we could see our need clearly. We structured our government after His word, we set out to hold Him in high esteem and follow His ways, and He blessed us for it. Wealth and prosperity, health and well-being were poured out on this country. And as time passed, our hearts traveled further and further from our Sovereign. We could do it ourselves. We convinced ourselves that we didn't need Him. We forgot Him.

It is the grinding of need in our bellies that turns us back to God. How pitiful that often our first cry is one of anger, "why did You let this happen?!" It is the height of insanity that by our actions we staunchly avow that He doesn't exist only to blame Him for our misfortune when it arrives. That misfortune winnows away the chaff of arrogance and pride so that the fruit of dependence is once again borne. And the cycle begins again. We have need; we cry out to God; He meets our needs; we become satisfied; we forget Him.

Why He has continued to have patience with us defies understanding. If it were me, I would have abandoned this ungrateful, prideful race long ago. Yet His mercies are longsuffering, His patience is deep and wide, and His love is everlasting. He knows exactly what will happen in our hearts, and yet during this age of grace He continues to reach out to us, to offer us Himself and the way back to Him. He continues to meet our needs.

What would it be like if we truly surrendered to Him? What would it be like if we kept Him first in our hearts, regardless of whether we were in want or in plenty? What would it be like if we truly trusted Him, if we allowed Him to transform our hearts and desires so that what we prayed for was not our own needs to be met but for His kingdom to come and His will to be done? What would it be like to *not* forget Him? What would He do in and with our country if we truly turned back to Him?

It begins with one. It begins with me. With you. One spark, one person turning fully back to God, can ignite a wildfire of Spirit-led dependence on our Creator. He has not forsaken us; let us not forget Him.

Father, we thank You for Your patience with us. We thank You that You sometimes allow calamity to bring our hearts back to You. Help us to surrender to You, to depend on You, and to desire You first and foremost.