

2 days ago, since 3rd century, a day to honor an early Christian pastor martyred for his acts of love. A day of the heart. I hope you remembered your dear valentine, Be mine. An easy a day to remember. I read an amazing story of a women, widowed for 8 years now who on valentines day gets a unique handwritten card and roses from her dead husband. When he knew he was dying, he wrote a different yearly note, arranged for it to take place each year after his death. Remembering. The Introit, you called on God, 3x to remember.

Here's a problem with you Americans but you actually get it right on Valentine's Day. You hear the word "remember" you think it's a mental task, about thinking. As if God's in heaven, thinking, what was that thing I was supposed to do for you. Especially in Hebrew "remember" is always proclaiming with action. When you say remember -you dare call God to act upon His promises for you.

So on Valentine's day, especially you men, I pray you remembered your loved one -you actually did something, to act, to proclaim your love. That's the heart of 'remember.' Like the Psalmist, by grace, we dare hold God to His Word and pray: **Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, remember not the sins of my youth, my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me!**

We're asking Him to speak it, work it, act upon His love, mercy, promises. God's actually does it. He doesn't say in the absolution, "One time long ago, think about what I did for you." No! He says right here, now, in this very house, to your heart and soul, **I forgive you.** I give you now what I did then. That's to remember! In the same your past sins, rebellion -as though they never happened -undone by His mercy, because of a man upon a cross.

Here's something else, you men need to remember. Remember this. All men are liars. It's not that you are good people who sometimes lie, but you are liars who sometimes do good. It's not my judgment, God says it in Psalm 116. All men are liars, a few women shaking their heads. But, men means all people: women, children are liars. Although the lies we tell others are wretched, nothing can compare to the lies we tell God.

Lie to justify our actions, excuse our actions. Too often we think we're the victim, it wasn't completely my fault, I'm good people, others got me in a bad mood; they deserved it, so I can hold a grudge. They upset me, stepped on my toes, I'm having a bad day, so deal with it.

Whatever befalls me, there's always an excuse for my sin; someone else or 'nature' is to blame and we transform the cross into a pacifier; and you can find plenty of church's that sound like victim therapy where God offers merely affirmation, support, compassion and here are 3 steps to improve your life. Instead of preaching Christ as the sacrifice for you liars, for your heart, your evil deeds. And you can't earn His love.

The way to hear the Law is not to lie, find ways that it doesn't apply to you. Jesus preaches of murder, adultery. And you're thinking, "Well, I'm okay. I haven't killed anyone; haven't cheated on my spouse. **But I say to you,**

everyone who is angry (angry? Yes, angry!) **or insults them will be liable to judgment**; belittles them **-fool! will be liable to the hell of fire**. For how I feel in my heart! Jesus confronts our lies. **You have heard it said. . but I say to you! You murder with words**. If that's not enough, **Everyone who looks with lustful intent has committed adultery in his heart**. That's right, even a look, live or online, one momentary lust -guilty deserving judgement. Your lying heart is completely corrupt. Remember in repentance.

Moses is warning the people about their hearts turning away from God; Jesus teaching sin is not just what you do or not do, but your heart diseased, corrupt.

So Sunday morning is for liars. We are not victims of the Ten Commandments. Why was Jesus crucified? He isn't crucified for victims or people with pretty good hearts, but for you liars, murders, adulterers who say -remember me! A poor miserable sinner, by nature sinful, unclean, not loved you or others. Remember, calling upon Him to act as He promises.

From His cross flows the only love this world has ever known. It is yours. The Law is fulfilled, those words of law are gifts in Christ, His perfect love keeping them for you. Every last penny has been paid. You will not perish but possess the land promised to your fathers.

This is not moral rehab for your heart, His perfect love creates a new heart in you, made perfect by His forgiveness and life, to have life according to His Word

Remembering God's work in you -does acts of love to neighbor, honors spouse. **According to Your steadfast love remember me!** He remembers you as the penitent thief from cross, **remember me when you come into your kingdom**. His works, action for you.

Remember, you hear it again in just a moment, the word the priest spoke on day of atonement, Lamb of God slain, **God remember you people**. A sacrifice. A life for life. Forgiveness. Also in the Passover liturgy, **remember the Lord**. Delivered, death cannot touch you, blood marks you. Directly related. **Do this in remembrance of me**. He isn't asking us to think about what He did long ago -as Christians wrongly teach. Rather, in eating His Body, drinking His Blood we proclaim His death until He comes again. And therein lies all our hope. His glory, our glory. **Remembrance of me**, better translated, **this do for my remembrance** -because Jesus work on the cross given right here, now, fulfilling His eternal covenant, joined to you, He arranged for you to always have Him, no greater love known on earth.

Remember, a matter of the heart, of eternal life, eternal death. God doesn't love in a generic way but uniquely, individually as if it were only about you. Remembered you in His death, resurrection. His beloved child, you are mine! He always remembers you.