

Preaching Resource

Scripture: Psalm 78:1-7a

Intro:

Most people have experienced a time when someone was overlooked or wronged, whether it was themselves or someone around them.

What stories in our lives have gone untold? Stories of our parents and grandparents. The different sides of history when the textbooks and headlines say one thing, but the experiences in our lineage say another. What of all the great people whose credit for their creativity and intuition was taken, or the opportunities snatched because of their heritage, gender, or class? How different would our world be without the impact and input of people we refused to acknowledge, and the stories that never get told? In a world that longs for love, trust, and leadership, how do we pave the pathway for these things?

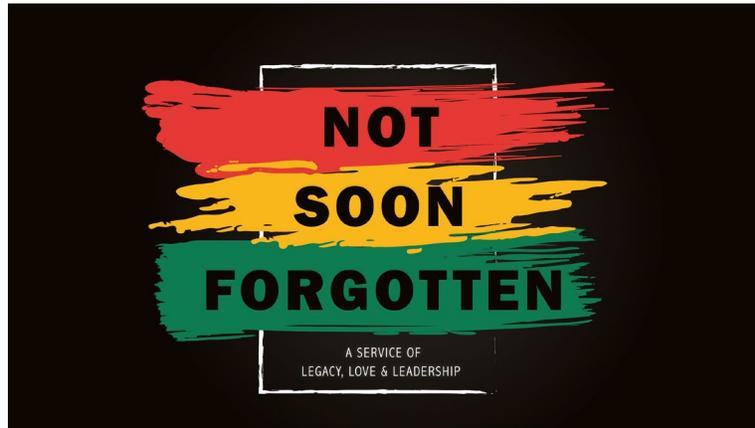
Text:

Give voice to truth - The text opens up saying “give ear, o my people, to my teaching...” The writer is calling us to speak and listen to the voice of truth. So often in our human nature, we listen to the voice that soothes, the voice that sounds familiar or good, the voice that leaves us in a place of comfort, but we have a moral and Christian obligation to giving voice to and hearing the voice of truth.

Tradition and Truth - Often when we pass down stories, beliefs, and values from one generation to the next, there is a battle that rests between the distinction of tradition and truth. We find ourselves longing for common beliefs, passions, and perspectives, but in the midst of it one ought to remain mindful of reality. Sometimes, society is guilty of coloring over or diminishing things for the next generation, but there is both power and freedom in truth. And though it may not be the most comfortable of places, to love someone we must come to know and understand their truths, hear the voice of their legacies and tradition, and celebrate differences.

Never forget - “We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them...”

So much of history has never been properly told, and because of it, our children are missing the opportunity to tap into legacies of greatness. Legacies rich with courage, innovation, endurance, and the wherewithal to triumph through dark times, oppression, depression, the fight for suffrage and against enslavement.



This is how we nurture the next generation. We never forget. We don't water down truths. We speak loudly of our struggles and our faith, of our challenges and our triumphs. Generations to come need to see the height of the mountains we've had to climb to understand they can climb even higher.

Healing comes when we remember and speak the truth - We can never properly move forward until we are honest about from whence, we came. How does one treat a wound unless they know the depth of it? How do you cure an illness unless you seek to understand the disease? We find ourselves learning to love better, by seeking to understand more.

"Leaving a legacy means being willing to plant seeds in a garden we'll never see." -paraphrased from Playwright Lin-Manuel Miranda

"Legacy is not leaving something for people. It's leaving something in people." - Peter Strople, business strategist

Set hope in God and never forget the works of God - This portion of the text closes with reminding us to set our hopes in God. Through the darkest points of history to the brightest spots, God has been there. With God all things have been made possible. This is how we've overcome. This is how we continue to fight the good fight. And though the voice of truth often makes us realize fault and growth areas within ourselves, God still allows room to grow in grace. God gives us chances to get it right. God gives us the holy boldness to step out and speak out; the courage to be the first. Through this boldness, we've seen the rise of some of our greatest leaders, and even now and throughout history many of our glass ceiling-breaking firsts. The leaders that have changed the face of history. The leaders that helped write our world's stories. And the leaders in the making, shaped by the stories told that we shall never forget.

Application: What truth will you give voice to? In what ways is God calling us to love better, live better, and lead better? Will we go on with business as usual or will seek to be the agents of change for truth, for love, and for justice in this world?