

**“Looking Forward by Looking Back”**  
**September 11, 2011 Deuteronomy 16:1-8**  
**A Sermon on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11th**

**Deuteronomy 16:1-8**

Observe the month of Abib by keeping the passover to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night. <sup>2</sup> You shall offer the passover sacrifice to the LORD your God, from the flock and the herd, at the place that the LORD will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup> You must not eat with it anything leavened. For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it—the bread of affliction—because you came out of the land of Egypt in great haste, so that all the days of your life you may remember the day of your departure from the land of Egypt. <sup>4</sup> No leaven shall be seen with you in all your territory for seven days; and none of the meat of what you slaughter on the evening of the first day shall remain until morning. <sup>5</sup> You are not permitted to offer the passover sacrifice within any of your towns that the LORD your God is giving you. <sup>6</sup> But at the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name, only there shall you offer the passover sacrifice, in the evening at sunset, the time of day when you departed from Egypt. <sup>7</sup> You shall cook it and eat it at the place that the LORD your God will choose; the next morning you may go back to your tents. <sup>8</sup> For six days you shall continue to eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a solemn assembly for the LORD your God, when you shall do no work.

**1. Where was God?**

**2. Where do we get our security?**

**3. What do we do with our anger and hurt?**

**4. What is really important?**

**Let us never forget ..... the lessons that we learned.**

# **“Looking Forward by Looking Back”**

## **September 11, 2011 Deuteronomy 16:1-8**

### **A Sermon on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11th**

#### **SERMON REFLECTION:**

I remember September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 very well. I had just begun serving my first pastorate in California. Being on the west coast I woke up to the news of what had already happened. Like many of you, I had the TV and radio on in the background most of day trying to both hear what happened and come to some understanding of why and how this could have happened. I remember being in New York just a month after it happened and hearing stories from various churches about how lives had been affected. I remember hearing that people were asking four primary questions about life and the things of God. It was easy, however, over the following weeks and months for many people to forget the lessons that they learned and so today we will refocus on those particular lessons. This will help us look forward in our journey in life by remembering the questions we had as we look back.

1. Where were you on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001? What do you remember about that day? What emotions, reactions and questions did you have? What emotions, reactions and questions did others have?
2. The primary question that I heard come up in people’s lives is one of the primary questions that arises when people explore Christianity. This question is basically, “If God is an all loving and all powerful God then why did the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> happen?” What were the different answers or explanations (right or wrong) that you heard in answer to this question? How would you answer this question? (look at passages such as Romans 8:28, Matthew 7:24-27, I Kings 8:56-57, Matthew 5:45)
3. The second question I heard people struggle with is “Where do we get our security?” The question may not have been posed exactly like this, but there was such a shock that this could happen on our soil that it made us question our security and safety. How should we respond to those natural questions of where should we find safety and security? How do we wrestle with finding our security in the protection of the government, pensions, savings, or in connection with finding our security in God? What passages of scripture come to mind as you wrestle with this question?
4. The third basic question I heard people wrestle with is, “What do I do with the pain and the anger?” At what point do we seek justice verses revenge? Where is the line between stopping the radical Muslim extremists and taking our anger out on an ethnicity or religion as a whole? At what point do we “turn the other cheek” (Matthew 5:38-44) verses protect ourselves, even offensively protecting ourselves (David and Goliath for example)?
5. The fourth question I heard a lot was, “What is really important in life?” Some answered this question for a couple of weeks or month and went back to the pursuit of money and status; others made life long changes as a result of that day. How did/do you wrestle with this question? (See Matthew 6:19-21)
6. How can you take the lessons you learned or struggled with as a result of September 11<sup>th</sup> and make sure you don’t forget them but incorporate them into your lives from this point forward? Was there one particular question that sticks out as more important for you to focus on than others?