



## *Wells of Salvation Ministries*

Sermon Outline 17      Author: Edmund E. Wells

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### “The Day Men Forget”

Scripture – Matthew 21:28-32

Text – Matthew 21:28

**Introduction:** At the opening of a Ministerial Convention I attended in Ohio, the mayor of the town we met in gave a brief address and closed with these words, which he had seen posted on the wall of a freight office – “Be Where You Are While You Are There”. I believe that those few words carry a great message for Christians today. Too many of us are:

#### I. Reliving The Past

1. Regret
  - A. Sins of commission
    - a. Words
    - b. Deeds
  - B. Sins of Omission
    - a. Unsaid words
    - b. Undone deeds
  - C. Due to neglect of yesterday when it was called “Today”
  - D. Make amends to God and man
  - E. God forgives and forgets
    - a. We should not let past defeats rob us of present victory
2. Rejoice
  - A. Past possessions
    - a. Justification
    - b. Sanctification
    - c. Faith
    - d. We must retain, maintain our Christian experiences – *“He that endures...”*
    - e. We become objects of pity (lost home, fortune, etc.)
    - f. It is as futile to haunt the devastated halls of the past as it is to walk the air castles of the future
  - B. Past accomplishments
    - a. Personal work
      - (1) Leading to Christ
      - (2) Lending helping hand
    - b. Public worship
      - (1) Altar victories
      - (2) Great crowds
    - c. Men are still astray, yet in need
  - C. Past emotions
    - a. Great blessings
    - b. God’s blessings are inexhaustible

- D. Ecclesiastes 7:10 (NASV) – *“Do not say, ‘Why is it that the former days were better than these?’ For it is not from wisdom that you ask about this.”*

## II. Reaching For The Future

1. Rocks and Rivers – “We fear the rocks not yet tossed,  
The rivers not yet crossed”
  - A. How can we take stones of persecution (Stephen)
  - B. Who will remove stones of opposition (Women at tomb)
  - C. How will we cross floods (Children of Israel)
    - a. Many times a mirage
      - (1) Wasted engineering effort
    - b. “Many Rivers To Cross”
  - D. *“...do not worry about tomorrow...”* – Matthew 6:34
2. Reward
  - A. Hope should lift our spirits and not sink our usefulness
  - B. Man who dreams day away making plans for spending pay will soon have no pay
    - a. (Robe over wings – Halo over horns)

## III. Refusing Present

1. Task
  - A. Too difficult
    - a. “Strength shall be as day”
  - B. Too small
    - a. “Despise not day of small things”
    - b. If you’re too big to do the small job, you’re too small to do the big one
    - c. Waiting for church, revival, mission assignment
2. Treasure
  - A. Presence of God
    - a. “With you always”
  - B. Power of God
    - a. “Nothing too heavy”
  - C. Permanence of God
    - a. Same yesterday, today, and forever
  - D. Pleasures of God
    - a. You can be blessed today
      - (1) 1<sup>st</sup> Psalm
      - (2) Beatitudes
  - E. Man like an hour glass
    - a. Spread out to handle past and future
    - b. So squeezed together he can hardly employ or enjoy today

**Conclusion:** Forget the past, fear not the future, fasten hold upon today. Christ has bid us to take up our cross daily and follow Him. He has commanded us to occupy until He comes. (Text) (“Let’s Do A Little Livin”)