

“A Bad Record”  
Psalm 106  
(Preached at Trinity, June 3, 2012)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. **Psalm 105** was a marvelous recap of Israel's history and God's covenant faithfulness. It ends with an appropriate, "Praise ye the LORD," literally, "Hallelujah!"  
As God's people our lives should be a continual demonstration of praise. We must never forget His tender mercies. With our minds and hearts continually full of the contemplation of God's faithfulness we must be continually swept up in praise and continually declaring His wonders to others.  
**Psalm 105:1 KJV** - "O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people."  
The first five verses of the first stanza contain 9 imperatives stressing the great duty of faithfulness we owe God as His covenant people. It is true, however, that these are duties that all man owe to Him.
2. As we move on to **Psalm 106** we find the dark side of Israel's redemptive history. With the wondrous backdrop of God's covenant love and mercy we are brought to the stark reality of Israel's sad record; a record of murmuring, idolatry, and forgetting God.
3. Sadly, Israel's dark record reflects the condition of all humanity.
  - a. God created all of creation in six days and declared it good. He created it all for His glory but the crowning finale of His creation was man. Man alone was created to bear His likeness and image. Man was created to reflect His glory.
  - b. Instead of living to reflect God and display His glory man became self-willed with a greater desire to glorify himself than God.  
**Romans 1:21 KJV** - "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."
4. This self-willed rebellion against God describes the history of humanity and sadly, it reflects the history of God's covenant people, Israel.  
Instead of being filled with gratitude for God's amazing covenant faithfulness and covenant blessings Israel's history reflects a complete despising of God's mercies.
5. Amazingly, with all of the revelation of Israel's sinful ingratitude, **Psalm 106** is a psalm of praise, from start to finish. It begins:  
**Psalm 106:1 KJV** - "Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he* is good: for his mercy *endureth* for ever." Literally: "Hallelujah"  
And it ends: **Psalm 106:48 KJV** - "Praise ye the LORD."
6. It is a psalm of praise because in spite of Israel's record of unfaithfulness and ingratitude we find a record of God's faithfulness.  
This is a fitting end to **Book Four** of the Psalter (Psalms 90-106).
7. I've divided this psalm into four sections:
  - I. A Call to Praise – **Verses 1-3**
  - II. A Constant Plea – **Verses 4-5**
  - III. A Complete Confession – **Verses 6-46**

#### IV. A Cry for Restoration – Verses 47-48

##### I. A Call to Praise – Verses 1-3

A. Remember, man's failure to praise God is caused by his forgetfulness – forgetfulness of God's goodness and tender mercies.

**Psalm 106:1 KJV** - "O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is good*"

1. This is true of all men

**Romans 1:21 KJV** - "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

2. Human beings close their eyes to the multitude of God's blessings. In their pride and love for themselves and their foolish heart they actually deceive themselves into thinking they are worthy of all good things.

3. The result is complaint when the blessings do not come and ingratitude when they do.

4. This was Israel's problem too - forgetfulness

**Psalm 106:7 KJV** - "they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies"

**Psalm 106:13 KJV** - "They soon forgot his works"

**Psalm 106:21 KJV** - "They forgot God their saviour"

5. Why is our worship so weak and empty of praise?

Could it be because of forgetfulness? Could it be because of the thoughtless disregard of God's wonderful excellence?

We must see ourselves in this psalm; our own sinfulness and our own forgetfulness and our own failure to worship God as we ought.

B. **Psalm 106** begins with a call to praise and heartfelt gratitude

**Psalm 106:1 KJV** - "Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is good*: for his mercy *endureth* for ever."

1. Remember His goodness!

2. Remember His steadfast covenant love!

3. Don't forget. Don't behave like those who do not know His covenant love

C. Who is it that is able to express such praise? – **Verse 2**

1. **Verse 3** answers the question for us in the form of one of the several Beatitudes of the Psalms.

**Psalm 2:12 KJV** - "Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him."

**Psalm 84:4 KJV** - "Blessed *are* they that dwell in thy house"

**Psalm 119:1 KJV** - "Blessed *are* the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD."

**Psalm 119:2 KJV** - "Blessed *are* they that keep his testimonies, *and that* seek him with the whole heart."

2. The English word, "Beatitude" is from the Latin word "beatus" which means happy or blissful. But as we consider a beatitude we are talking about happiness or bliss that comes as the result of God's favor or blessing. Those whom God blesses are most happy.

3. Here in **Verse 2** we find those who are blessed as those who uphold justice and practice righteousness.

4. The psalmist declares that these are the ones who will praise God. In other words, there is a direct correlation with living a holy life and praising God.

## II. A Constant Plea – Verses 4-5

### A. “Remember to show me favor”

1. Don’t forget to show thy covenant mercies to me when you bless your people. Treat me as one of Thine own.
2. The psalmist is about to enter a lengthy section of confession. This is a plea for God’s mercy
3. This is an amazing contrast. The entire next section of confession deals with Israel’s forgetfulness of God.  
While Israel’s history is a history of forgetfulness, this is a plea for God to remember – “Remember me, O LORD”

### B. It is a beautiful reminder that although God has chosen a multitude of people no one gets lost in the crowd.

**Psalm 106:4 KJV** - "Remember me, O LORD, with the favour *that thou bearest unto thy people*"

1. Remember me with the favor you show to your people
2. The Good Shepherd knows each and every one of His own
3. To be counted among the people of God is the greatest of all blessings  
Notice the threefold blessing of this petition:  
That I may see the good of Thy chosen  
That I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation  
That I may glory with Thine inheritance

## III. A Complete Confession – Verses 6-46

### A. With Verse 6 we begin a long and detailed confession

1. True confession must be complete and honest and repentance must follow
2. Notice there is no effort to minimize the seriousness of their sin, nor any effort to hide from the personal guilt. Although the word “they” is used to describe their sin, there was also the claim to personal responsibility “We”  
**Psalm 106:6 KJV** - "We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly."
3. Notice the psalmist speaks of God’s goodness and tender mercies and then confesses their sin

**Psalm 106:7 KJV** - "Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked *him* at the sea, *even* at the Red sea."

**Psalm 106:12-13 KJV** - "Then believed they his words; they sang his praise. <sup>13</sup> They soon forgot his works"

**Psalm 106:24-25 KJV** - "they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word: <sup>25</sup> But murmured in their tents, *and* hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD."

4. It would seem that their sin knew no bounds  
**Psalm 106:36-39 KJV** - "And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them. <sup>37</sup> Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, <sup>38</sup> And shed innocent blood, *even* the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood. <sup>39</sup> Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions."
- B. The root causes of their sin is made clear – And our sin
1. **Verses 7-12 - Unbelief – Verse 12** implies that they had not believed  
 "Then they believed His words"  
**Psalm 106:24 KJV** - "they believed not his word:"
  2. **Verses 13-15 – Discontent – Verse 14** - "But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness"
  3. **Verses 16-18 – Jealousy – Verse 16** - "They envied Moses also in the camp, *and* Aaron the saint of the LORD."
  4. **Verses 19-23 – Idolatry – Verse 19** - "They made a calf in Horeb, and worshipped the molten image"  
**Psalm 106:20 KJV** - "Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass."
    - a. Paul referred to this in **Romans 1**  
**Romans 1:23 KJV** - "And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things."
    - b. The ESV inserts "the glory of God" but this masks the intensity of the verse. They changed their glory. In other words for the child of God we glory in Him. God is our glory.  
 Compare this with the lost man:  
**Philippians 3:19 NAS** - "whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things."
  5. **Verses 24-27 - Turning Back – Verse 24** - "they despised the pleasant land" – **Verse 25** - "murmured in their tents"  
**Numbers 14:4 KJV** - "And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt."  
Only those who endure to the end will enjoy the fruits of their reward:  
**Matthew 10:22 KJV** - "And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved."  
**Hebrews 10:38 KJV** - "Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."
  6. **Verses 28-31 – Apostasy – they forsook God and joined themselves with other gods - Verse 28** - "They joined themselves also unto Baalpeor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead."

7. **Verses 29; 32-33 – Provocation** - "Because they provoked his spirit" God is patient and longsuffering but He can be provoked to wrath  
**Verse 29** - "Thus they provoked *him* to anger with their inventions"  
**Isaiah 1:4 KJV** - "Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward."
  8. **Verses 34-39 – Paganization** – **Verse 35** - "But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works."
- C. God's judgment was just – **Verses 40-43**  
**Psalms 106:40 KJV** - "Therefore was the wrath of the LORD kindled against his people"
- D. In spite of Israel's great sin, God's covenant promises did not fail  
**Psalms 106:44 KJV** - "Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry"
1. One of the sweetest verses in this psalm is **Verse 45**  
"he remembered for them his covenant"
  2. Even in His judgment He caused their enemies to show mercy  
**Psalms 106:46 KJV** - "He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captives."  
**Lamentations 3:22 KJV** - "*It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*"
- IV. A Cry for Restoration – **Verses 47-48**
- A. With true confession and repentance comes an expectation of restoration  
**Psalms 106:47 KJV** - "Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the heathen"
  - B. Restoration reflects the purpose of our being – to glory in God
    1. To manifest thanksgiving  
**Psalms 106:47 KJV** - "gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name"  
**Psalms 106:1 KJV** - "Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is good*: for his mercy *endureth* for ever."
    2. To rise up in praise of God  
**Psalms 106:47 KJV** - "to triumph in thy praise."

#### Conclusion:

1. With this the psalmist erupts in praise:  
**Psalms 106:48 KJV** - "Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD."
2. How can this psalm so full of sin and God's chastisement begin and end in praise? Because God is good. We deserve God's wrath and destruction but He remembers His covenant.  
**Lamentations 3:21-23 KJV** - " This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.  
<sup>22</sup> *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.* <sup>23</sup> *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*"