

Moving Forward When You Feel Forgotten

Series: *It's Time to Move Forward*

Texts: 1 Samuel 1:1–20; John 5:1–9

Key Verse: *Isaiah 49:15–16* – “Can a mother forget her nursing child?... Yet I will not forget you. See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.”

INTRODUCTION: When Heaven Feels Silent and People Move On

Have you ever felt like everybody else is being blessed but you?
Like your name was somehow left off the list.
You prayed, you served, and you waited— but heaven-stayed quiet.

You go to church and celebrate everyone else’s breakthrough...
But when it’s time for yours — all you hear is *crickets*.

Let’s be honest — sometimes faith doesn’t make you feel *found*.
Sometimes faith makes you feel *forgotten*.

But the good news is: **God may delay, but He never deserts.**
And when He seems to be standing still — He’s really setting things up.

TENSION: The Pain of Feeling Unseen

Before God ever moves you forward, He often lets you *sit* in silence —
not to punish you, but to prepare you.

Hannah sat in that pain for years.
The paralytic sat by the pool for *thirty-eight years*.
Both surrounded by people, both feeling invisible.

That’s where faith is forged — in the space between being *noticed by people* and *remembered by God*.

I. Hannah — When Heaven Seems to Ignore You

📖 *1 Samuel 1:6–7*

A. The Mockery of the Moment

Peninnah mocked her for being barren. Elkanah didn’t understand her pain.
Year after year, Hannah went to worship — and year after year, she left *empty*.

Sometimes the hardest test isn’t losing something — it’s *waiting* for what you’ve never had.

B. The Breaking Point Becomes the Turning Point

Verse 10: *“In bitterness of soul, Hannah wept much and prayed to the Lord.”*

Her prayer wasn't polished — it was *raw*.

She poured out her heart until her lips moved but no sound came.

That's what breakthrough looks like — not performance, but *poured-out pain*.

C. The Misunderstood Worshiper

Even Eli thought she was drunk.

That's what happens when people can't discern your desperation.

But God heard what Eli didn't understand.

Key Line:

“People may overlook your tears, but heaven keeps every record.”

D. The Remembering God

Verse 19 says, *“And the Lord remembered Hannah.”*

That's not because He forgot — it's because He *chose the moment* to act.

Preaching Cue:

“God's remembrance is not about recall — it's about release!”

Call and Response:

- “He hasn't forgotten you.”
 - “He's just waiting for the perfect time to release what's already yours.”
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II. The Man at the Pool — When Help Never Seems to Come

📖 *John 5:1–9*

A. Thirty-Eight Years of Waiting

Imagine being in the same place, surrounded by the same people, seeing the same water ripple — but never being the one chosen.

He said, *“I have no one to help me.”*

That's the language of someone who feels forgotten.

B. The Lord Shows Up in the Overlooked Place

Jesus didn't come to the temple — He came to the pool.

He didn't come for the crowd — He came for *the one*.

Key Line:

“God specializes in showing up where everyone else stopped looking.”

C. The Question That Changes Everything

Jesus asks, *“Do you want to be made whole?”*

It’s not a question of desire — it’s a test of decision.

Wholeness requires participation, even when your hope is wounded.

D. The Command That Calls You Out

Jesus says, *“Get up, take your bed, and walk.”*

In other words — stop waiting on others to remember you.

Step into the power that’s already remembering you.

Call and Response:

- “When people forget you, God will find you!”
- “When others pass you by, Jesus will come to your pool!”

III. WHEN YOU FEEL FORGOTTEN, REMEMBER THESE TRUTHS

1 God’s Delay Doesn’t Mean God’s Disinterest

2 Peter 3:9 – “The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise...”

If He said it, He’s working it. Even when you can’t see it.

2 Being Overlooked by People Can Be God’s Way of Protecting You

Psalm 27:10 – “Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.”

Some platforms you weren’t invited to — because God was preparing one that fits your purpose.

3 When God Remembers, He Redeems the Years

Joel 2:25 – “I will restore to you the years that the locusts have eaten.”

When God finally moves, He pays back everything you thought you lost.

CLOSING MOVEMENT: The God Who Never Forgets

You may feel like your name has been erased from the list,
but God says, *“I’ve engraved you on My hands.”*

Hannah’s womb was shut — but heaven’s plan was wide open.
The man at the pool was ignored by men — but seen by the Savior.

So if you’ve been in that waiting place —
Keep praying. Keep worshiping. Keep expecting.

Because while you’re waiting for God to remember you...
He’s preparing the world to *recognize* you.

CLOSING DECLARATION

“When you feel forgotten, remember — the God who sees the sparrow still sees you.”

“He hasn’t skipped your name — He’s saving your story for a stage that fits your miracle.”

Call and Response Finale:

- “I may feel forgotten...”
- “But I am never forsaken!”