As Israel prepared to leave Egypt God wanted to make sure they would never forget the important lessons they were learning about Him. He knew human nature tends to quickly forget spiritual lessons and ceases to be thankful. And when this happens people are forced to keep relearning painful lessons, and those who fall into that cycle are prevented from maturing. Forgetting also leads to thanklessness and that is an even greater danger for it allows pride to grow and pride in time will always lift God’s hand of blessing. So to protect them as well as their descendants from falling into this trap He instituted three ceremonies which He wanted to become traditions. He said from the moment they left Egypt onward they were to observe: the feast of Passover; the feast of Unleavened Bread; and the dedication of firstborn sons and livestock. He wanted these events to regularly remind them of the great miracles He did for them, and then He wanted them to talk about those miracles so their faith would be passed on to their children. These were lessons that must never be forgotten, and these were lessons that every generation must learn. Therefore He commanded that they become traditions… memorials built into the patterns of their lives. Today we’ll look at the continuing power of traditions and consider how they can be a blessing to us as well.

**What were the lessons Israel must never forget?**
1. Passover: You were rescued from death by the blood of a lamb (substitution);
2. Unleavened Bread: I faithfully provided for your needs in the wilderness; I fed you “bread from heaven” (supply);
3. Firstborn: When I rescue you from death, your life belongs to Me (sanctification).

**What does the word “tradition” mean?**
1. From “tradere” (latin): to give up, to transmit to another;
2. The oral transmission of information, beliefs, customs, etc. from ancestors to posterity;
3. Something handed down from the past; an inherited culture, attitude, etc.

**What is the purpose of observing traditions?**
1. Preserving truth we must never forget;
2. Transmitting truth or children must learn;
3. Borrowing faith from others;
4. Preventing thankfulness from eroding.

**Why do we need traditions?**
1. We tend to quickly forget lessons learned and this forces us to keep relearning lessons and prevents progress;
2. We tend to keep truth to ourselves forcing our children to learn the hard way;
3. We tend to be independent and not want to learn from others (some feel it is shameful to need help from others; they insist on learning everything themselves);
4. We tend to quickly grow thankless which allows pride to grow (pride means we forget God is our source and assume we are responsible for our own success; we forget what we have is a gift from God which forces God to allow hardship to come upon us so we will repent and return to Him. Ex 12:25; 13:5, 11; Dt 6:6–12; don’t forget in the good times what you learned in the hard times).

**What are the dangers?**

**What are the traditions in our lives?**
1. Church;
2. Nation;
3. Family;
4. Personal.

**What attitudes must be present for traditions to be a blessing?**
1. Discipline;
2. Humility;
3. Creativity;
4. Love

**Discussion Questions:**
1. Name a tradition you observe which means a lot to you and tell why (it doesn’t have to be any of those mentioned above).
2. Do you remember the day you were saved, or the day you realized you were saved (some people have grown up knowing the Lord and can’t put a specific date on it)?
3. What is the most difficult tradition for you to observe? Why?