

OBEYING THE COMMANDS / Sunday School- August 23, 2009

Unifying Topic: GOD CALLS FOR OBEDIENCE

Lesson Text

I. The Consequences of Obedience and Disobedience (Deuteronomy 6:1-3)

II. The Greatest Commandment (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

III. Passing on the Tradition of Faith (Deuteronomy 6:20-24)

The Main Thought: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart. (Deuteronomy 6:4-6, KJV).

Unifying Principle: When people obey laws, they expect that life will be good. Why do people care at all about laws and try to follow them? Deuteronomy states that God gives laws for our benefit.

Lesson Aim: Students are encouraged to explore what it means to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deut. 6:5, NIV).

Life aim: Christians should understand their faith so well that they can explain its main truths to their children and to unbelievers.

6:1 Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it:

6:2 That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

6:3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

6:4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:

6:5 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

6:8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

6:9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

6:20 And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord our God hath commanded you?

6:21 Then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand:

6:22 And the Lord shewed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes:

6:23 And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he sware unto our fathers.

6:24 And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.

HISTORY:

Going back to the Chapter 5, Moses called the congregation of Israel together to review the Ten Commandments, explaining that he was repeating this so the people might learn them and be very careful to obey them. Moses explained that the covenant of the Ten Commandments was made with them **now**, not their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and that God spoke to Moses face to face from the midst of the fire on the mountain. "I, Moses, stood between God and you because you were afraid and did not go up the mountain and The Ten Commandments are the words, which God spoke and wrote on two tablets of stone."

God said,	Commandment	Jewish (Talmudic)****	Anglican, Reformed, and other Christian	Orthodox	Catholic, Lutheran**
	I am the Lord your God	1	preface	1	

You shall have no other gods before me	2	1	1	1
You shall not make for yourself an idol		2	2	
You shall not make wrongful use of the name of your God	3	3	3	2
Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy	4	4	4	3
Honor your father and mother	5	5	5	4
You shall not murder*	6	6	6	5
You shall not commit adultery	7	7	7	6
You shall not steal***	8	8	8	7
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor	9	9	9	8
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife	10	10	10	9
You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor				

Moses reminded the people of their reaction when they witnessed God's glory and hearing God's voice out of the midst of the burning fire on the mountain and how they were surprised they were still alive.

They sent for the heads of their tribes and their elders to speak to Moses on their behalf, wanting to make an agreement with Moses because they were afraid that if they witnessed God's glory again, the great fire of God would consume them and they would die. Thus, they proposed to Moses that he go to God, and they would obey God's word. God heard and told Moses that the people were correct in all they had said.

NOTE:

God was then saddened because it was His desire that the heart of the people would always respect and fear Him. But being outside of time, God knew what the people would do. If the Israelites always obeyed God's commandments, then it would always have been well with them and their children.

God approved and instructed Moses to tell the people to return to their tents and Moses was to stay with God and God would tell Moses **all** His commandments, statutes and judgments, so that Moses could teach the people. God instructed Moses: Be careful to do all the Lord commanded. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded..., that you may live..., it may be well..., and prolong your days... which you shall possess (v.30-33).

Deuteronomy 6:1-3 The Consequences of Obedience and Disobedience

It had not been easy for Moses to teach God's people. Moses is calling attention to **The Commandments**. In these verses, God brings the law down to one ruling principle, one commandment which encompasses all the commandments, and Israel's fate rested on their obedience to this one great commandment. If they **obeyed**, their life would be long and filled with blessings; if they **did not obey**, they could expect to be cursed by God. Obeying God would bring possession of the land, long life, and great increase. The purpose of this rehearsal of the law in their hearing was so that they would remember to obey and fear the Lord.

NOTE:

*God's commandments are to be taught, but they are also to be practiced. Christ's ministers are to teach God's people all that He has commanded, and neither more nor less, that the end of their being taught was that they might **do** as they were taught (Deut.6:1), might keep God's statutes (Deut.6:2), and observe to do them, (Deut.6:3). In anticipation, that the fear of God in the heart will be the most powerful principle of obedience. It is not the bare action alone, at which God looks, but at the motive — at the spirit which dictates it.*

POINT:

The Bible is our instructional manual from God for navigating life's journey. But merely owning a copy is not enough. It must be studied, applied, and passed on to others.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 The Greatest Commandment

Other than teaching the Commandments, Statutes, and Judgments, one of the last sermons or teachings of Moses' life, told to the Israelites was one of importance, so that the fear of God would be implanted in their hearts. Moses

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wanted to be certain that the people would consider God's approval, before taking any action. This commandment is called the Shema**

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!* You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength" (v4-5); (Matt.22:37). Why does God command us to love Him with all that we have and all that we are? Because He deserves no less, and because He pours out His blessing on those who please Him.

NOTE:

**Jehovah or Yahweh is the only true God. This was an important insight for the nation of Israel, because they were about to enter a land with many gods.*

Keep these commandments in your heart, **teach** them diligently to your children, **talk** of them when you sit in your house, when you **walk** by the way, when you **lie down**, when you **rise up**; **bind** them as a sign on your hand, as frontlets between your eyes, and **write** them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

NOTE:

** Shema, a Hebrew word meaning "hear." The Shema is a prayer that is recited daily by observant Jews to remind them of their call to remain loyal to Jehovah God.

It is still a practice of many Jews today to have little half oval plates by their front door inside which is the Shema. They are called Mazuzas (doorpost") a piece of parchment (often contained in a decorative case) inscribed with specified Hebrew verses from the Torah.

The intent is that the Word of God should be hidden in a person's heart and constantly be a source of devotion and obedience to the Lord.

TERMS:

THE COMMANDMENTS: (Heb. 'mitsvah' Deut.4:2, is a reference to the sum and substance of the Law—The Ten Commandments given to Moses on Mount Sinai. and given to the people to please God -- the first four commandments), and get along with each other -- the final six commandments.

THE STATUTES: (Heb. 'chuqim', may refer to the ceremonial laws dealing with how to approach God or that which was prescribed as moral or ritual or civil code; an ordinance; a decree.

THE JUDGMENTS: (Heb. 'mishpatim', refers to the pronouncement of a decision. It is often used to refer to God's discipline of his people that which expresses what happens when a person keeps or violates the Law.

Deuteronomy 6:20-24 Passing on the Tradition of Faith

When your children ask the meaning of the commandments, you must explain to them how you were slaves in Egypt. You must explain how the Lord brought you out of the bondage of slavery in Egypt with a mighty hand and many wonders. Instruct your children to obey God's commandments for their own good so that God preserves them and they live in righteousness.

POINT:

This was to be told repeatedly, as it is our conversion; to be told repeatedly of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

SUMMARY:

The charge to obey in today's study, is Moses' teaching to the wilderness generation that, when they go over into the Promised Land (Canaan), God still expects them to follow His directives—His commands. Moses warned the people that when life was good for them, they were not to forget God. Loyalty was demanded because God was the one who acted on Israel's behalf in history. God knew that there would be many distractions in Canaan that could lead the Israelites astray into many vile and corrupt things. The people of the land surrounding the Promised Land all worshipped idols. God knew that these idols would be a great temptation for the Israelites.

Moses goes on to say that we should love the Lord with all our might, meaning we should not only love the Lord with our words, we should love the Lord with our actions. Everything we do should be out of respect and reverence for the Lord. "And these commandments that I give you this day are to be upon your hearts" (v6).

These commandments are to be impressed on your children. Loving the Lord means passing on what you have learned; teach them to their children, so that they can obey as well. The basis for the education of the young is redemption; instructing them in the method by which God brought Israel out of Egypt.

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And I'll go on further to v 25, when Moses uses the phrase, "it shall be our righteousness", which implies that their righteousness will come from observing the Law with a willing spirit, attitude, heart, and strength, and not with an empty obedience before the Lord God. If they obeyed God, then all would be well with them and they would possess the Promised Land and cast out all their enemies.

APPLICATION:

We may not be in danger of making graven images and bowing down before them; but there are several idols to which we can give our loyalty. For instance, there's the attraction of an active career, wealth, even popularity among our peers and coworkers. However, since He delivered us from the slavery of sin, loyalty to God is the appropriate response from us as well

Loving the Lord means loving Him with our words, loving Him with our actions, and loving Him with our witness. We should be saying "I love God so much that I want MY WHOLE FAMILY to get to know God! I love God so much that I want His word to make a lasting impression on their lives."

As I live to give true testimony of the goodness of God before them, showing the integrity of God's Word, and believing God with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength, the power of God (The Holy Spirit) does the rest. You see, Love is the motive behind man's relationship to God, just as Love was and still is the motive behind God and man through His Son Jesus. Obeying God will not be a problem with God's Power!