

COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Deuteronomy 6:1-15 – Jason Finke

The setting for the book of Deuteronomy is the nation of Israel on the verge of entering the promised land. At this point, the Israelites had been wandering in the desert for nearly 40 years as a result of their faithlessness (Numbers 13 & 14). Due to that faithlessness, God swore that none of the people age 20 and up (except Joshua and Caleb) would enter the promised land. All those people have died off, and the Israelites are now camped east of the Jordan River opposite Jericho ready to enter their inheritance. God had Moses remind the surviving generation (and those born in the wilderness) of God's delivering them from slavery in Egypt, and to warn them to be obedient to Him when they entered the land.

In Deuteronomy 6, the people are commanded to love God with all their heart, soul, and strength and to be obedient to His commands. Additionally, they are given instruction on how they are to teach these truths to their children and grandchildren.

Sermon Main Point: Faithfulness through undivided love

Discussion

1. Read Exodus 19:5-6 and 1 Peter 2:9. Ted noted that God intended for Israel to be a kingdom of priests and that role has now fallen to believers. He noted that the role of the priest is to be a mediator between God and man. In what ways does the believer fulfill this role? How can we ensure that we are being faithful to God in fulfilling this purpose?
2. Deuteronomy 6 contrasts the rewards of faithfulness (prolonged days, multiplication, life in a land flowing with milk and honey) with the consequences of unfaithfulness (the anger of God being kindled against you, being wiped off the face of the earth). Read Revelation 21:1-8. What rewards/consequences are promised to the faithful/faithless (saved/unsaved) in this passage? How do these compare to those in Deuteronomy 6?
3. Ted spoke of how God wants our whole heart, but that we have divided affections. He also noted that we will always do what we love the most. What do your actions indicate that you love the most? Why are you tempted to love these things more than you love God?

4. In this passage, God commanded the Israelites to diligently teach their children His commandments. In what ways are you teaching God's commands to others (remember Ted noted that those without children or with grown children are still responsible to teach their church family)? Read Deuteronomy 6:20-25. When your kids ask you a version of this question, how will you respond?

Reflection: The text commands parents to be continuously teaching their children about God ("when you sit in your house", "when you walk by the way", "when you lie down", "when you rise up"). As an application of this text, Ted exhorted us to feed our children the Word of God. Let us be faithful in teaching our children/grandchildren/church family.