

The Joyful Seeker

LESSON 9~ GOD'S CALL TO OBEDIENCE

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Background Scripture: Deuteronomy 4

Lesson Passage: Deuteronomy 4:1-10 (NLT)

Introduction: Obedience is expressing our loyalty to God through our faith. It helps us focus on Him and what He has done for us so we change from the inside out, becoming more Christ-like to obey His will. Obedience means having perfect confidence in Christ so we daily present ourselves to Him as our Lord and Savior and carefully seek what God requires of us and then line up our lives with Him and His standards to the best of our ability.

We seek Him first, not our own interests or what others demands of us. Obedience makes us keep Him first and foremost in our lives, regardless of the circumstances, so we will be able to obey Him and be loyal to His call. Obedience also helps us recognize authority and direction from others, such as the pastor and church, so the results will be winning situations.

We will learn:

- ♥ To surrender to His Lordship.
- ♥ To relinquish our plans, agendas and desires for control
- ♥ To trust Him completely
- ♥ To focus more on Christ and His love, plan and percepts.

Memory Verse: *6 Obey them completely, and you will display your wisdom and intelligence among the surrounding nations. When they hear all these decrees, they will exclaim, 'How wise and prudent are the people of this great nation! (Deuteronomy 4:6) NLT*

Scripture Reference: Deuteronomy 4:1-10 (NLT)

1 "And now, Israel, listen carefully to these decrees and regulations that I am about to teach you. Obey them so that you may live, so you may enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. 2 Do not add to or subtract from these commands I am giving you. Just obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you. 3 "You saw for yourself what the Lord did to you at Baal-peor.

There the Lord your God destroyed everyone who had worshiped Baal, the god of Peor. 4 But all of you who were faithful to the Lord your God are still alive today—every one of you. 5 "Look, I now teach you these decrees and regulations just as the Lord my God commanded me, so that you may obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy. 6 Obey them completely, and you will display your wisdom and intelligence among the surrounding nations. When they hear all these decrees, they will exclaim, 'How wise and prudent are the people of this great nation!' 7 For what great nation has a god as near to them as the Lord our God is near to us whenever we call on him? 8 And what great nation has decrees and regulations as righteous and fair as this body of instructions that I am giving you today? 9 "But watch out! Be careful never to forget what you yourself have seen. Do not let these memories escape from your mind as long as you live! And be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren. 10 Never forget the day when you stood before the Lord your God at Mount Sinai, where he told me, 'Summon the people before me, and I will personally instruct them. Then they will learn to fear me as long as they live, and they will teach their children to fear me also.'

Lesson Focus: Deuteronomy 4:1-10 (NLT)

Verses 1-5 ~ Israel sinned both sexual and spiritual immorality with the women of Moab. Moses warned the people that if they rejected God now as they did back then, the result would be the same. Many would die under the judgment of God. God's intention was that through Israel's obedience to His covenant, He would exalt them among the nations and make them a witness. This was so that foreigners would see that the Lord God of Israel was indeed the LORD God (I Kings 10).

Moses called the people to hear and obey the rules of conduct that God had given them to observe. Their success and full enjoyment of life in the Land was based on their obedience to God's law. The rules included their permanent rules of conduct in obeying those in authority and legal and court decisions which served as guidance in the future.

Moses keeps reminding them that their eternal life and their well-being on this earth is dependent upon total obedience to the LORD. He teaches them before they enter the Promised Land because he will not go into the Promised Land with them. They must go in and possess the Land. They must obey God. God's Word had given Israel complete and sufficient directions for the people and His law/Word could not be changed in any way. It could not be altered or contradicted. Moses warned them (Revelation 22:18-19).

Israel's spiritual and physical life and death depended on their obedience. They were about to attack a strong nation that would push them out of the Promised Land—if they didn't have the blessing of the Lord upon them, they would soon be in a lot of trouble. Moses tells them their very lives depended on obeying God's law (Numbers 25:1-9). Only those who had held fast to the Lord by obeying His commands were alive that day to hear Moses.

Moses wants the Israelites to clearly understand that the statutes and judgements God had given them on the trip, were for their practice in the Promised Land. They are not to forget about God, and start living pleasing to their own flesh. They are to keep God's commandments and laws.

Verses 6-7 ~ Obey them completely, Moses tells the Israelites. Their obedience to God's law would provide a testimony to the world that God was near to His people and that His laws were righteous. One purpose of the law was to make Israel morally and spiritually different among all the nations and, therefore reveal the True and Living God to those nations. They were from their beginnings to be a witness nation.

The one thing that set the Israelites apart from the rest of the world, was their relationship with their God. The people who lived around them thought of them as a great nation, because God was with them, and because He had given them His law. Their wisdom was a gift from God. Righteousness brings life.

The Israelites were a special people because; (1) No other nation had a God that they could call upon for any reason, and; (2) No other nation was able to draw near to God in prayer and to study His righteous laws in Scripture. Israel's faithfulness to the Lord would allow the nations to see that the Lord had established a relationship with Israel. This is the only nation in the world at the time Moses wrote this, that had the LORD dwelling with them (Exodus 29:45).

Verses 8-10 ~ All the nations around them lived pleasing to their own flesh. Every man did what was right in his own sight. The law and statutes God had given Israel was not just to please God, but to cause Israel to live uprightly. There were dietary laws and civil laws, as well as religious laws. There were over 600 instructions given to Israel in the book of Leviticus to help them live righteously before God and man. God did not want them to have an earthly king. He wanted to be their only King. The

one thing that set Israel aside, was the fact that God had entrusted them with His law.

Deuteronomy stresses the responsibility of parents to pass on their experiences with God and the knowledge they have gained from Him to their children. This law is not just for this generation, but for all the generations to come. They must walk in the knowledge God had entrusted them with. They were to keep themselves holy before the LORD.

We are all warned to gird up our mind. Sin begins in the heart and mind of men. Sin is the transgression of the law. Sin brings death. They must live by the law that God gave them. We Christians, must walk in our salvation that we have received. It is important to stay in the Christian walk, after you receive your salvation. It is a dangerous thing to go back to pleasing the flesh.

Verse 10 ~ One experience of Israel to be passed on from generation to generation was the great *theophany* (the self-revelation of God in physical form), which took place at Horeb (Exodus 19:16-18, 20:20). The fear is not the terror kind of fear, but reverence toward God and His commandments. God spoke to the people His commandments. To fear God enough causes us to teach our children to fear God as well.

Make it real:

- Our natural selfish will must be sacrificed through discipline; this is hard but the rewards are great!
- We are called to obedience, but God will not make us obey; it must come out of our free will.

Closing Prayer: *Merciful Father, hallowed be Thy Name. We thank You that we are not of this world system but have a heavenly inheritance, reserved for us in heaven. We pray that we are no longer conformed into the pattern of this world; but day by day transformed into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. In His Name we pray. Amen!"*