

Maranatha Fellowship CRC
Farmington, NM 87401
Sunday, January 21, 2024, 10:00 AM

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Deuteronomy 10:12-13

Message: Listen, Love and Obey God for your Own Good

Brief Preview

God gives Moses instructions for the second generation of Israel regarding faithful living in the Promised Land. The Book of Deuteronomy emphasizes the laypeople rather than the priests and the sacrifices. Moses reminds the new generation of the importance of obedience if they are to learn from the sad example of their predecessors. Moving from past Israel's history to present Israel's holiness and homeland to the future Israel's new leader, Moses stresses the faithfulness of Israel's God and says, "God brought us out...to give us the land" (Deut. 6:23). Listen, love and obey God for your own good. Love God, love neighbors and be blessed!

Outline:

- I. Introduction
 - A. It's Important to Listen.

Illus. "The Insight About Listening: The Icehouse, the Lost Watch and the Little Boy"
 - B. A brief preview on the Book of Deuteronomy
 - i. Moses' instructions to the new generation
 - ii. Rebellious previous generation
 - iii. God brought his justice and never abandoned his covenant promises

- II. Moses addresses to the second generation of Israel (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)
 - A. A daily prayer
 - B. The meaning of the word "listen" or "Shema" in Hebrew
 - C. The meaning of the "love" in Hebrew and purpose for the Israel's obedience and devotion to God

- III. The large collection of the laws at the center of the book
 - A. The opening section
 - B. Some examples (Deut. 26:12)
 - i. Israelites sets aside one of their annual income to be given to the temple
 - ii. Another tenth to be set aside and given it to the poor every three years
 - iii. God pushes Israel for higher level of justice
 - C. Some practical implications
 - i. Donating food for the hungry – food pantry ministry
 - ii. Ministering to the homeless – offering shelter, warm blankets, etc.
 - iii. Taking care of the poor: loving neighbors just as we love ourselves
 - D. Laws about Israel's Civil Life
 - i. Moses forces a decision (Deuteronomy 30:19)
 - ii. Moses ends with his poem of warning
 - iii. Important questions and Fear the Lord (Deuteronomy 10: 12-13)

E. Conclusion

- i. God's people throughout the ages have had trouble living as per God's instructions
- ii. Jesus came not to do away with God's life giving instructions, but rather to fulfill them perfectly on our behalf (Matthew 5:17)
- iii. Our creator brought a new and unbreakable relationship for us in Christ
- iv. Jesus is the perfect law keeper; we need to listen, love and obey God for our own good

Questions and Answers (Refer to Deuteronomy 6:4-5, and 10:12-13 NIV for answers; Circle the correct answer)

1. What is the meaning of Shema, the Hebrew word for "Listen" in English? **Circle One.**
 - A. Responding to that what you hear or obey
 - B. It is not just hearing
 - C. "Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.
 - D. Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
 - E. All are correct
 - F. None is correct

2. The word 'love' in Hebrew also means:
 - A. Just an emotion or feeling
 - B. It's about a decision of wholehearted devotion to God that involves your will, and your emotions, your mind and your heart
 - C. Both
 - D. All of the above

3. Love the Lord your God: (Deut. 6:5)
 - A. with all your heart
 - B. with all your soul
 - C. and with all your strength
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None

4. And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you: (Deut. 10:12-13).
 - A. To walk in obedience to him
 - B. To love him
 - C. To serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.
 - D. And to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving today for your own good.
 - E. Fear the LORD
 - F. Only a to c are correct
 - G. All are correct

5. The take of home lessons today is:
 - A. Christ fulfilled the law for us
 - B. Listen means not just hearing but responding to what you hear or obeying
 - C. We need a sinless human being who is perfectly obedient to God's instructions: That's Christ for us!
 - D. Our relentlessly gracious Creator provided one for us...his own Son, JESUS, born as a human being
 - E. It's important that we listen, love, obey God for our own good
 - F. All of the above answer choices are correct