

As we enter into our third message from Deuteronomy we are reminded to Cherish the Lord

- This particular text reminds us to cherish the Lord in times of abundance
- What does Jeff Bezos need? 235 B dollars – Give everyone earth \$20 and still be a billionaire
- If you had Bezos money, would it be easier or harder to rely on the Lord | Needs Jesus
- Greatest spiritual dangers is not hardship...success | Trials – comfort | Scarcity – Abundance

Blessing is a gift...but it can also be a test of the heart

- Israelites were going into a time of prosperity and they still needed to cherish the Lord
- About to go over the Jordan river and be given the promise land by the Lord...Reminding

Big Idea: Don't let comfort lead to complacency

What if I told you God cared less about your life being comfy & more that it's captivating

Is it okay that life is going okay for you right now? Food – Family – Money...yes

When things are good should propel your worship...drive obedience...motivate dependence

¹⁰ “And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, ¹¹ and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, ¹² then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ¹³ It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. ¹⁴ You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you— ¹⁵ for the Lord your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the Lord your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

- Remember who talking – Second generation who have known nothing but wilderness
- Going to enter the Promise Land...given great prosperity...three warnings about prosperity

1. In Prosperity We Are Prone to Forget (10-12)

¹⁰ “And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, ¹¹ and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full,

- When things are going great, people tend to forget about the Lord – **Spiritual Amnesia**
- I like to call the Spiritual Amnesia cycle | Bad Beg - Better Remember – Good forget | [Israel]

Genesis 12:7 = Initial | 15:8 = Expanded | 17:8 = Reiterated | 28:13 = Confirmed (Isaac & J)

- 400 years has passed and the land was being developed while Israel was in captivity
 - It has major cities like: Jericho – Hazor – Jerusalem...major metropolitan areas
 - The Israelites earned none of this...but they were being given it...why? God promised
- Dani's looking for a house – Mansion...fully furnished...cupboards stocked...butler (Edwardo)
- What did she have to do for it? Nothing...just be Dani...live on live street | God's grace
- a. Source of the blessing is the Lord – God brings them into the land...not military
 - b. Blessing is rooted in God's promise – Swore to A / I / J – Rooted in God's faithfulness
 - c. Received more than they labored for – cities they didn't build – Opportunities create
- Think about Heaven...will we get more than we labored for...labored for sin [Gospel]

Takeaway: Remember the God who Gives in generosity

When we are in times of great prosperity...when things are good...remember God gives

- The Israelites had done nothings to deserve the promise land...we've don't nothing
- Build habits that build gratitude**

This is an exercise that is for your good...build habits that build gratitude

When you lay down at night...comfy on your pillow...in your fluffy bed...are you grateful

Let's try tonight...when you go to bed tonight...lay down and articulate some things to God

So you do not forget the Lord in the midst of great prosperity

2. In Prosperity We Have a Propensity to Wander (13)

¹³ It is the Lord your God you shall fear.

If you have nothing to fear...there is nowhere you won't go... amygdala...walk off building

- Fearing the Lord = good thing...walking off a building...Prosperity makes it hard to fear
- Reverence for Lord keeps us grounded...keeps us in right place...keeps us from wandering
- a. Fear = Reverence, awe, holy respect | Not terror...deep recognition majesty & authority
 - b. Fear of God shapes our whole life | Governs decisions, attitudes, priorities, and worship
 - c. Fear of God liberates us from the fear of everything else | God is big...problems small

Him you shall serve | We don't wander from God...we serve God

- The word means ongoing...there is not a moment of the day where you are not serving
- Obedying His Commands – Submitting daily choices to Him – Devoting our lives His purpose
- and by his name you shall swear. | Commitment to declare loyalty to God

- Swearing by His name means pledging your allegiance – Kids swearing on mother life
- This is covenant language...declaring that the Lord is the one True God

Our worship is to be exclusive: No other gods – No mixture of gods – No compromise

Takeaway: Remember the God who Requires our Reverence

- Our allegiance must be public and practical: Speech – Lifestyle – Commitments
- Have you ever seen a compass? A compass is only valuable if it points in one direction
- God is your due north...pointing you in the right direction – Everything else leads you astray
- Recapture your awe – Stars in the wilderness – Baby the size of a gummy bear = Awe

3. In Prosperity We Are Predisposed to Idolatry (14-15)

¹⁴ You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you—

We often think of idolatry as an ancient sin: statutes – shrines – graven images...relevant

Idolatry is anything that captures our hearts more than Go - Only one master can rule your heart

- Israel was faced with the temptation of the gods of Canaan
- We face the gods of comfort, success, entertainment, identity, money, and approval.**
- Moses warns greatest danger would not be enemies but distraction that pulls the heart
- a. Idolatry is subtle and alluring – Have you ever had really good fruit – Garden Eden
 - b. Idolatry is a pursuit – ‘Going after’ ...you don't accidentally fall into idolatry

¹⁵ for the Lord your God in your midst is a jealous God

God is not distant but is present with His people – Presence demands reverence and loyalty

- God's presence is a blessing and a reminder – You cannot hide idols – Behind your back
- God is a jealous God – Not sinful envy but that of a husband who won't share his bride

Takeaway: Remember the God who Guards you with Jealousy

If someone tried to kidnap your wife, would you be well withing your rights to hurt them?

God's jealousy = act of love bc he knows idols want to hurt you and He's being protective

lest the anger of the Lord your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

God's anger is righteous not reactive – It is anger responding to covenant betrayal

- We don't like thinking about anger of the Lord, but the Truth is Sin makes God angry
- Don't provoke the Lord**

We have a saying...don't poke the bear...don't poke the Lord

The Bible teaches us that the Lord is ‘slow to anger’ but that doesn't mean he wont angry

Here is somethings that will make you feel better: The Lord loves you enough to get angry

Know who doesn't make angry? People I don't care about...they don't get me at all | [Jesus]

Blessing is a gift...prosperity is a gift...but it is not one that should be abused

- It is somethings that should propel us to worship...not distract us from it

