

**Last message: Commit – Cultivate – Cherish and today Celebrate...God has done so much**

God had done so much for the Israelites...40 years earlier they were in slavery & God freed

- Moses is reminding them to continue to celebrate the Lord...haven't done a great job
- Israelites have doubted the Lord off-and-on throughout their entire time wandering
- kid goes into a lake and starts to drown...lifeguard saved him...same kid goes back next week
- Think about it this way...if God has saved you...He will save you – You can rely on it!

**Walking in Reliance has a Powerful Outcome**

God has proven His faithfulness...we must respond with trust, obedience, and devotion  
Reliance is a funny thing...we pride ourselves on being self-reliant and that is unbiblical  
Biblical reliance = Trusting and depending on God for every need, rather than on oneself

- *Heart habits* = Trusting God's goodness even in suffering...trials come we trust
- *Mind habits* = Defining reality through Scripture, and communal time...like church

Are you living in a way that shows you are reliant on God...if so, there is power

<sup>16</sup>“You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah. <sup>17</sup>You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and his testimonies and his statutes, which he has commanded you. <sup>18</sup>And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, that it may go well with you, and that you may go in and take possession of the good land that the Lord swore to give to your fathers <sup>19</sup>by thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the Lord has promised.

What is Deuteronomy? Final Sermon...Israelites camp on the plains of Moab...East...Jordan

- 40 years of wilderness...2<sup>nd</sup> generation...preparing them to live in Canaan
- He's begging them not to fall into patterns unbelief and idolatry that destroyed parents

So in this final message we see: A Warning – A Call to Action – And a Direct Result

## 1. The Warning: Testing God (16)

<sup>16</sup>“You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah.

Exodus 17:1-7 = ‘Water from the rock’ – Massah was arid and dry land – People complained

- Lack of water – God abandoning them – Demanded signs – Questioned His goodness
- Moses = ‘What shall I do with these people...they are ready to stone me’
- God = ‘Take the staff struck Nile...Elders...Go before them...strike rock...he did...water
- People = Tested the Lord, ‘Is the Lord among us or not’ – Forgetting all Lord had done

Think about it...every day you turn to who is closest to you and demand a sign of love

You would be testing that person to prove their love to you...people do this with God...

- a. Demand He prove Himself – Lord give me a sign...He has done that = Jesus & Bible
- b. Set Conditions for Obedience – ‘I will trust you if’ – Jump off a cliff...if you really love me
- c. Treat God as unreliable unless He works on our terms – You are not God's boss

Isaiah 55:8-9 ‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.’

How crazy would world be...Heaven there was a switchboard...you could just demand God

IF God has only sent Jesus...it is more than we deserve

Trust the work God has faithfully done

I trust your word – past faithfulness is enough – I don't need any more before I trust you

In Massah their real problem wasn't thirst...it was unbelief

Right now, there is a thirst in your life...somethings that you believe God has not met

- In stillness of this room...quietness of your mind...in this moment...will you trust Him
- Let me encourage you...even if this world takes everything from you...God is still Good
- Step further – When Jesus was tempted by the Devil in Matt. 4:7 – It was this verse

## 2. The Call: Diligent Obedience (17)

<sup>17</sup>You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and his testimonies and his statutes, which he has commanded you.

Everything you do has a motivation...why go to work? Joy – Ambition – Goals...motivation

What is the motivation to obey the Lord? Obligation? Terror? Reward?

Wholehearted, consistent obedience flows from love for God.

- Diligently = Carefully – Intentionally – Persistently | There is a warning with diligence
- Obedience becomes such a habit we forget it is an act of worship and expression of love
- Know what I do every Thursday? Take out the trash...I do this because I love my family
- When you: Go church – abstain from immoral sexual activity – Control your anger = Love
- Content to obedience (What are we obedient to) = Commands – Testimonies – Statutes
- a. “Commandments” – God's direct instructions – Divine directives for daily living.
- b. “Testimonies” – reminders of God's covenant & His works – Look through pages of time
- c. “Statutes” – God's established rules and boundaries – Worship – Justice – Community
- These things we are to make daily practice and then that practice makes up our lives
- I got fired by a piano teacher...I never practiced...I will always regret not learning
- People think they will be good Christians and they never practice...practice wickedness
- Do you want to get Good at Christianity? Keep the commands God has clearly spoken

### Five ways to practice obedience

- a. Obey when it costs you – Integrity over convenience | Purity over pleasure
  - b. Obey intentionally – Set rhythms: Scripture – Prayer – Worship
  - c. Obey consistently – Not sporadic spiritual bursts, but steady faithfulness
  - d. Obey with joy – Obedience is not a drudgery it is a devotional delight
  - e. Obey with trust – Believing God's commands are good even when they feel difficult
- Where is God calling you to move from occasional obedience to diligent obedience?

## 3. The Result: God Wins (18-19)

<sup>18</sup>And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, that it may go well with you, and that you may go in and take possession of the good land that the Lord swore to give to your fathers <sup>19</sup>by thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the Lord has promised.

Who is the main protagonist of this entire story? Moses? Lord = Egypt – Desert – Promise

- There is an incredible weight lifted off your shoulders...breath deep...God wins
- God calls His people to pursue what is right...experience His blessing and fulfill His mission
- Why is war scary? Will we win...what cost | Rest easy = We know who wins and what it cost
- God made a promise to Israel ‘Go in and take possession of the good land’
  - The ‘Good Land’ represents God's faithful covenant promise
    - The fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham – Isaac – Jacob
- Israel had a mission ‘drive out all the enemies’ | Israel had a holy calling

Remove Idolatry – Reject syncretism – and establish a pure covenant-centered community

- This is what the church is called to do in the New Testament context
- Good news for you = Spiritual obedience produces spiritual victory in your own life
- Success in conquering Canaan depended not on military might but spiritual faithfulness
- Our success in this world will not depend on military might but on spiritual faithfulness
- Anticipate the goodness God has already planned
- Trust at obedience brings blessing: Maturity – Presence – Peace – Eternal Reward
- Fight the right battles: Sin – Pride – Apathy – False Teaching – Worldly Influences

We can do all this knowing that God wins

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