

Sermon Title: Priorities

Sermon Series: Gospel Directed Family

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6

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Things we can do together to raise our children well...Love them, teach them, protect them, get them into good schools, provide for them, listen to them, guide them, feed and nourish them, clothe them, get them exercise, get them involved, help them make friends, teach them to be healthy, teach them right from wrong, to avoid drugs, to be good people, Pray for them, pray with them, fix their boo boos, show them affection, discipline, help them succeed, teach them to manage finances, teach them to work hard, teach them to love God, to serve, to love others, teach them manners...

What is important?

"Don't worry that the kids never listen to you; worry that they are always watching you."

—Robert Fulghum

Four main action steps that God commands us to do:

1. FEAR GOD

Deuteronomy 6:1-3

“Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules[a]—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, 2 that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

“the fear of the Lord is and expression for the totality of a right and devout relationship to God”

“fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments”.– Moses

Fear and obey so that:

- your days may be long (verse 2)
- that it may go well with you v3
- that you may multiply greatly v3
- that you can ENJOY God’s blessings (land flowing with milk and honey)

2. LOVE GOD

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.[b] 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 6:7-8

7 “You shall have no other gods before me.

8 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 9 You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 10 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

– Do we love our careers more than God? Is all our time and energy tied up in pursuing success?

– Do we love money more than God? Do we use the blessing and provision God has given us for His purposes in our lives, or do we keep it for our own? Do we spend our money on sinful things? When we look through our checkbook, does it reflect Jesus, or the world? Are we obedient to God’s command to tithe?

– Do we love sports and activities more than God? Is our calendar preventing us from spending time with God? Again, does our calendar reflect how Jesus calls us to live, or does it reflect worldly values?

- Do we love worldly entertainment more than God? Does what we fill our minds with please God and draw us closer to Him?
- Do we love church more than God? Are we more concerned with the rules, our preferences for the ways we do things, or the traditions, than we are with humbly giving God our personal best in our worship, service, and giving? Are we loving God by letting Him use us to serve and reach others that He loves?
- Do we love other people in our lives more than God?

TEACH GOD

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 NLT

6 And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. 7 Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. 8 Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

REMEMBER GOD

Deuteronomy 6:10-15

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.

Deuteronomy and the other first books of the old testament, written long before Jesus Christ was born, show us a picture of the gospel.

Deuteronomy 6 ESV

6 “Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules[a]—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, 2 that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.[b] 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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.

16 “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah. 17 You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and his testimonies and his statutes, which he has commanded you. 18 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 19 by thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the Lord has promised.

20 “When your son asks you in time to come, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the Lord our God has commanded you?’ 21 then you shall say to your son, ‘We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. 22 And the Lord showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. 23 And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers. 24 And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. 25 And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us.’