

“Linchpin” - Part 2: Grab the Baton (7-8-2018)

New Series: Linchpin – A Study of the Book of Deuteronomy: Know what anchors you, and living accordingly!

Today: Grabbing the Baton (looking back to learn from our past)

Introduction: Deuteronomy opens with a review . . . Teaching the current generation how to grab the baton well

Consider your past, and the history of your family (you fit into a larger narrative). Reflect on the victories & failures of your history, and ultimately see God’s faithfulness through the ups and downs.

Let’s begin this morning looking at Jesus grabbing the baton . . . Story found in: **Luke 2:41-52**

Luke 2:41-42 (ESV)

(41) Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. (42) And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom.

Notes:

- (Verses: 41-42) Ritual & Routine from his parents – this is how we learn what is important to remember!
- (Verse: 43) Jesus stayed behind – he was paying attention to the ritual & routine and asking why . . .
 - He didn’t just mindlessly follow the rituals, but sought to understand them!

Luke 2:46-47 (ESV)

(46) After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (47) And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

Notes: How he spent his time . . .

- Listening & asking questions. (This is one of the most difficult & rare habits to form)
- This led to understanding & answers. (He was able to re-state what he was learning, that’s understanding)
- He did this with the teachers of the Law (Deuteronomy) at an early age. He eventually critiques them!
 - You can’t effectively critique the past if you won’t first learn from it & understand it!

Luke 2:49 (ESV)

And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

Notes: Jesus understood who his true Father is. That’s who we should ultimately learn from.

Luke 2:51 (ESV)

And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

Notes: Yet, Jesus was submissive and honored his earthly parents.

Luke 2:52 (ESV)

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Notes: Result - He increased in wisdom, stature, and favor with God & man!

Now to Deuteronomy . . .

Deuteronomy – Opening chapters are Looking Back (Grabbing the Baton)

Chapter 1: Parents failed to take hold of the Promise . . .

1. Time to take the Land - (Leave Horeb, where they received the Law and Moses met with God)

It is so tempting to settle for stability, or even get stuck in an old place where God spoke to you. Are you still telling the story from 5 years ago? What is He saying today? Face today's adventure!

2. Leaders Appointed – democratically choose them (wise, understanding, experienced (or known))

Deuteronomy 1:13 (ESV)

Choose for your tribes wise, understanding, and experienced men, and I will appoint them as your heads.

3. Refused to enter the Land – Fear

4. Penalty for Refusal – they got stuck & now their kids have to face it! (This is so right on)

Deuteronomy 1:35 (ESV)

Not one of these men of this evil generation shall see the good land that I swore to give to your fathers.

Deuteronomy 1:39 (ESV)

And as for your little ones, who you said would become a prey, and your children, who today have no knowledge of good or evil, they shall go in there. And to them I will give it, and they shall possess it.

Deuteronomy 1:40 (ESV)

But as for you, turn, and journey into the wilderness in the direction of the Red Sea

Chapters 2 & 3: God is faithful to their parents, and to them as kids while in the wilderness.

1. God gives guidance & protection (all through chapter 2 and into chapter 3)
2. Lean on His past faithfulness for encouragement in their current battle . . .

Deuteronomy 3:2 (ESV)

But the LORD said to me, 'Do not fear him, for I have given him and all his people and his land into your hand. And you shall do to him as you did to Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived at Heshbon.'

3. Learn to deal w/ disappointment (it's not the final word)

Moses is frustrated that he can't enter promised land, he just wants a taste (Deut. 3:23-29)

Instead God says no. You can go up on a mountain and see it from a distance, but your job now is to inspire the next generation to grab what you couldn't . . .

Deuteronomy 3:28 (ESV)

But charge Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he shall go over at the head of this people, and he shall put them in possession of the land that you shall see.

Notes:

- Love your disciples (Dallas Willard – love is willing the good of another)
- Wish for them to do better than you! (easy to say, hard to do)
- My personal story: David Green

Deuteronomy Chapters 4: Now you go do it! It is time to start running your race . . .

Deuteronomy 4:1-2 (ESV)

(1) And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. (2) You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.

Notes:

- God of your Fathers – He is your God!
- Time to take possession of His gift to you!
- Follow His full counsel – don't add to it or remove from it (Jesus will build on this - next 2 weeks)

Conclusion: Consider your past, and the history of your family (you fit into a larger narrative). Reflect on the victories & failures of your history, and ultimately see God's faithfulness through the ups and downs.

Remember always: God's redemptive work, when you do inevitably fail! He works all things for good.