

The Bible 20/20: “Run your Race” (3-1-20)

Introduction: Overview of Deuteronomy

Context: Moses and the old wilderness wandering generation are coming to a close, and the next generation is about to head into the land that was promised long ago.

The Purpose: To engage, prepare, & inspire the “next” generation to take their place as “this” generation.

- Moses speaks to the Next Generation about . . .
 - Legacy - How to learn from their parents (the good & bad)
 - Obstacles - Win victory over difficult circumstances
 - Daily Purpose - How to maintain success, and avoid complacency

Picture a relay race – they are being taught how to take the baton, run their leg, and hand-off well so the race can be won over the long haul.

Key Thought: Your life is more than your own. Your legacy is wrapped up in both the past & future.

Basic outline: Looking back, within, ahead, and up! (Warren Wiersbe)

- Looking Back – Moses is reminding the next generation of their people’s history (good & bad)
- Looking Within – A reminder of the Law of God and who they are called to be
- Looking Ahead – what it’s going to require to take the promised land & keep it!
- Looking Up – A new leader is appointed, and a song of Worship, and a Blessing is pronounced.

Today: Looking Back & Looking Within

Looking Back (Grabbing the Baton)

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

Chapter 1: Their Parents failed to take hold of the Promise . . . when it was their moment

- Refused to enter the Land – Fear
- Penalty for Refusal – they got stuck & now their kids have to face it! (This is a life principal)

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

- God gives guidance & protection (all through chapter 2 and into chapter 3)
- Lean on His past faithfulness for encouragement in the 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.'

- 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.

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

Looking Within (How to Run with Endurance)**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.

Note:

- The 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

Moses continues in Deuteronomy 4 with 2 key points summarized by these 2 verses . . .

Deuteronomy 4:9, 31 (ESV)

(9) "Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children . . . (31) For the LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.

Note: Take care of your soul, because when you don't there are consequences. But, ultimately God is faithful

Then starting Chapter 5 with a restatement of The 10 Commandments, for the next several chapters Moses emphasizes how they are to run their race well.

(Extra Note: Deut. Chapter 6 is essential Bible reading!)

Three Warnings: Now we are going to wrap up with 3 Warnings found within these next several chapters.

- But we are going to hear them not only from Moses, but Jesus himself!
- Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy 3 times to Satan when he is tempted in the wilderness.
- In fact, outside of the Book of Psalms, it's the Book of the Bible He quoted the most.

Main Text: Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)

Matthew 4:1-2 (ESV)

(1) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (2) And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

Note: Jesus on the cusp of stepping into His Ministry & Destiny, goes into the wilderness to prepare too!

1) First Temptation: Be careful what you eat! (Lust of the flesh)

Matthew 4:3-4 (ESV)

(3) And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." (4) But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Deuteronomy 8:2-5 (ESV)

(2) And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. (3) And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. (4) Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. (5) Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you.

Note: Pay attention to what you consume. What do you feed on for sustenance and life?

- Knowledge as food . . . Adam & Eve eat the fruit (they fed on the lie until it looked appealing)
- There is a lot to feed on, what do you eat?
- Watch out because what you consume will consume you!

2) Second Temptation: Be careful whose opinion you worry about! (Pride of Life)

Matthew 4:5-7 (ESV)

(5) Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple (6) and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" (7) Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Deuteronomy 6:16-19 (ESV)

(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.

Note: Are you worried about your Reputation or your Character?

- One of the biggest temptations is to care more about your reputation than your character.
- Are you being driven by how you are perceived?
- Do you focus on how you are viewed by others, or about who you really are?
- It's the difference between pride (which brings crippling fear), and perfect love (which casts out fear)

3) Third Temptation: Be careful what you worship! (Lust of the eyes)

Matthew 4:8-10 (ESV)

(8) Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. (9) And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." (10) Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

Deuteronomy 6:13-15 (ESV)

(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.

Note: Am I worshipping the world and what it has to offer? Or the One who made the world and holds it in His hand?

- Whatever has your eyes (your focus, or consumes your thought) is what you are worshipping!

Conclusion: Our God is faithful and steadfast - and He wants us to Run our race successfully with endurance!