

**HABC 28TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE
LOOKING BACK, ENJOYING THE MOMENT, AND MOVING FORWARD
DEUTERONOMY 9:1-29; ACTS 20:17-32**

INTRODUCTION: We have so many reasons to celebrate God’s faithfulness towards us over these past 28 years. Anniversaries are always a time for reflection, and we also look forward with excitement about what the Lord may do next as we continue to serve Him. From our vantage point, we always look at this beautiful church from a leadership perspective, and today we want to share life lessons we learned from two great leaders, Moses and Paul.

BACKGROUND: In Deuteronomy chapter nine, we see Moses pouring out his heart to the second generation of Israelites, after nearly 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. In Acts 20, we see the Apostle Paul sharing his heart with leaders he had poured into, encouraging them to be ready for future challenges.

I. AS YOU FACE THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE, REMIND YOURSELF OF HOW GOD HAS GIVEN YOU VICTORIES IN THE PAST. (Deuteronomy 9:1-6)

- A. The Lord can destroy every enemy you will face as you obey Him. He will work *through* you as He works *for* you as you take on the challenges He brings for his glory and your growth and development. (1-3)
- B. Remember that many victories are not because we are so righteous, but that God is righteous and faithful to keep His promises. (4-6)

ii. NEVER FORGET THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYING FOR OTHERS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO GIVE YOU PROBLEMS. THEY MAY BE THE ONES WHO TEACH YOU BEST ABOUT YOUR OWN SPIRITUAL LIFE. (Deuteronomy 9:7-29)

- A. Moses interceded faithfully for people who threatened him, disappointed him, and frustrated him. 40 days and 40 nights twice! God offered to wipe them out and start over, but He prayed for them, was willing to die for them, and wanted God’s name to be glorified. That was Christ-like prayer! (Exodus 32:30-32)
- B. The people we will serve as we move forward are facing challenges that are unique to this generation of sinners. Learning from how Moses served his generation, we learn to pray for one another:

- S _____
- P _____
- S _____
- S _____
- C _____
- C _____
- E _____

III. THE BEST THING WE CAN DO FOR THOSE WE LOVE AND SERVE IS TO TEACH THEM TO TRUST THE LORD AND HIS WORD. (Acts 20:18-32)

- A. Our motives should always be pure and obvious. The people we serve should see that we care, in public and in private. (Acts 20:18-20)
- B. Our goal should always be to point people to Christ, not ourselves. No matter what happens along the way, we want to finish our assignment with joy. (Acts 20:21-24)

C. We have tried to teach every book of the Bible **either here on Sunday morning or through the Moody Bible Institute** because the Lord wants leaders to share the whole counsel of God. We cannot just preach what people want to hear! (Acts 20:27)

D. We have taken seriously our responsibilities at this church and the church worldwide. Since God paid the price of His own blood to purchase the church, we should always give our best as we serve. (Acts 20:28)

E. We have been warned about those who would try to destroy the church from the inside out and the outside in. Do not listen to false teachers no matter what celebrity status they may have!

F. We commend you to God and the word of His grace. Knowing Scripture will build you up. Trust God's process of sanctification. Focus on the treasure of the inheritance He has prepared for those who love Him and remain faithful. (Acts 20:32) (1st Peter 1:3-5) (1st Corinthians 6:9-11) (Matthew 25:34-40)

G. It is more blessed to give than to receive. Have you understood the blessing of giving? It is so much more than just money! Give your time, talent, treasure, and love!

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

1. FEAR THE LORD

2. OBEY EVERYTHING HE TELLS YOU TO DO

3. LOVE HIM WITH EVERY FIBER OF YOUR BEING

**4. CIRCUMCISE YOUR HEART. GOD WANTS TENDER HEARTED PEOPLE AND TOO PEOPLE ARE HARD HEARTED. (Deuteronomy 10:12-16)
(Jeremiah 4:4)**

5. PRACTICE JUSTICE. TREAT OTHERS LIKE YOU WANT TO BE TREATED AND HOW GOD WANTS THEM TO BE TREATED.

6. PRAISE HIM FOR WHO HE IS AND ALL HE HAS DONE!

*Happy 28th Anniversary
Dr. Ronald J. Morrison
October 8, 2023*