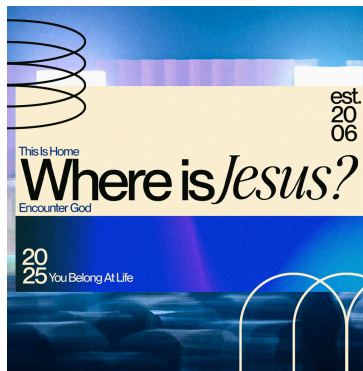




Where is Jesus? PT. V | Deuteronomy | Mark Allen | 11.23.25

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by thanking God for His Word and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and reveal truth to each person present.

Icebreaker

Share about a time when you had to explain something important to someone who hadn't experienced it firsthand. What was challenging about that?

Key Sermon Points

1. The Purpose of Deuteronomy

- Moses retelling God's faithfulness to a generation that didn't witness the Exodus
- "Second law" = retelling the law to those who didn't hear it the first time
- Supernatural provision had become "normal" to the younger generation

2. Going Out and Coming In

- Going out = going to war (witnessing in the world)
- Coming in = coming to worship
- We can't stay in church; we must go out to be witnesses

3. What the Law Reveals

- The law closes every mouth (Romans 3:19)
- The law reveals we are sinners (Romans 3:23)

- The law shows we are "utterly sinful" - not just that we sin, but that we ARE sinful to the core
- One single sin is enough to separate us from God

4. The Only Way to Salvation

- Not by our righteousness or good works
- Only through faith in Jesus Christ
- Romans 10:9-10: Confess with your mouth, believe in your heart

Key Takeaways

- ✓ **Salvation is not about being good enough** - it's about Jesus being good enough for us
 - ✓ **The law reveals our need** - it doesn't save us; it shows us we need a Savior
 - ✓ **We are called to both worship and witness** - come in to worship, go out to war against spiritual darkness
 - ✓ **One sin separates us from God** - we can't compare ourselves to others or think we're "pretty good"
 - ✓ **Faith in Jesus is the only way** - confess with your mouth and believe in your heart (Romans 10:9-10)
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Discussion Questions:

Understanding the Sermon

1. **Why did Moses need to retell the story of God's faithfulness in Deuteronomy?** What had the younger generation missed by not experiencing the Exodus firsthand?
2. **What does it mean that the Israelites' supernatural provision had become "natural" to them?** Can you think of ways we might take God's blessings for granted today?

3. **Explain the concept of "going out" versus "coming in."** Why is it important that we don't just stay in church?

Applying the Truth

4. **The pastor said, "The law was given to close your mouth."** What are the two wrong responses people have about getting into heaven? Which one do you find yourself leaning toward?
5. **Read Romans 7:7-11 together.** How does the law reveal sin in our lives? Can you share an example of when you became aware of a sin only after learning what God's standard was?
6. **The sermon emphasized we are "utterly sinful" to the core, not just people who commit sins.** How does this understanding change the way we view ourselves and our need for Jesus?

Personal Reflection

7. **Are you trusting in your own "goodness" or in Jesus' righteousness?** Be honest with the group about areas where you might be relying on your own efforts.
8. **Pastor Mark said, "I do my best witnessing when I have a fear of God on me."** What does having a "holy fear" of God look like practically? How does this help us in our witness?
9. **Moses told the Israelites that fearing God was "for our good always and for our survival" (Deuteronomy 6:24).** How is the fear of God essential for our spiritual survival today?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one or more of the following to practice this week::

1. **Recognize the Supernatural:** Make a list of ways God has provided for you that you've started taking for granted. Thank Him specifically for these things.

2. **Go Out to War:** Identify one person in your life who needs to hear about Jesus. Pray for them daily and ask God for an opportunity to share your testimony with them this week.
 3. **Practice Holy Fear:** Each morning this week, spend 5 minutes in silence acknowledging God's holiness and your dependence on Him. Ask Him to give you a healthy fear of the Lord.
 4. **Stop Comparing:** When you're tempted to think "I'm pretty good" or "I'm not good enough," immediately redirect your thoughts to Jesus and His finished work on the cross.
 5. **Share Your Story:** Practice telling someone this week (even another believer) about how you came to faith in Jesus - focusing on what HE did, not what you did.
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Closing Prayer Points

- Pray for those who made decisions to follow Christ during the sermon
 - Ask God to help each person truly understand their sinfulness and Jesus' righteousness
 - Pray for boldness to "go out" and be witnesses this week
 - Thank God that salvation is by grace through faith, not by works
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For Further Study

- Read through Deuteronomy 6 and Romans 3-7 this week
 - Study the concept of "the fear of the Lord" in Proverbs
 - Reflect on Ephesians 2:8-9 regarding salvation by grace
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Memory Verse:

Romans 10:9-10 "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."6

Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to those who may be struggling with assurance of salvation
 - Emphasize grace throughout the discussion - this isn't about making people feel condemned but helping them see their need for Jesus
 - If someone indicates they want to accept Christ during your small group, take time to pray with them
 - Encourage honest sharing about struggles with witnessing and living out faith in daily life
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