

Bringing Your Faith Home | Evaluating Our Influences

Deuteronomy 7 | July 24, 2022

1. Introduction

- a. Series recap - today = Influence
- b. Quotes
 - i. “You don’t have to be a person of influence to be influential. In fact, the most influential people in my life are probably not even aware of the things they’ve taught me.”
 - ii. “Everyone is a leader because everyone has influence.”
 - iii. “The ability to influence people without irritating them is the most profitable skill you can learn.”
- c. Les Mis - well-known story about the power of influence - thief, caught, received grace
- d. Deut 7 - God is very concerned about the influences in our lives - strong language about removing from our lives people and things that are harmful influences - also insight into healthy influence that reflect God's love
 - i. How have you been influenced by people and things? How have you used your influence? What does good and bad influence look like?
- e. Three influences - two bad, one good

2. Bring your faith home by removing influences driven by greed.

a. Deuteronomy 7:1-5

- i. Challenging chapter - “one of the most problematic, if not offensive, texts in all Scripture”
 1. Rhetorical strengthening of Exodus 23 - 40 year recap
 2. Emphasis is on God’s deliverance/judgment - Israel is agent
 3. Only 4 accounts of total destruction - Jericho, etc.
 4. The point is the blessing and well-being of the people via obedience **(11-15)**.
 - a. Verse 11 is the center of the structure
 5. Connection to us
 - a. God prepared a home for Israel to be free from the harmful influences of the world.
 - b. God wants your home to be free from the harmful influences of the world.
 - c. He has driven out the hold of sin.
 - i. **Colossians 1:13-14**. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
 - d. We are to remove the influence of the world.

- i. **Ephesians 6:11-12.** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
 - b. People - treaties and intermarriage, covenant relationships with people who don't share your faith
 - i. **2 Corinthians 6:14.** Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?
 - ii. They will pull you away from your faith **(4)**.
 - iii. They will ensnare you through pity **(16)**.
 - iv. They will ensnare you through fear **(18, 21)**.
3. **Bring your faith home by removing influences driven by gold.**
- a. **Deuteronomy 7:25-26**
 - b. Things - idols, things that draw us away from our faith by dominating our time and attention - ensnare us through covetousness
4. Premarital counseling couple - he lost a scholarship, she mostly lost her faith.
5. **Bring your faith home by repeating influences driven by grace.**
- a. **Deuteronomy 7:6-9**
 - b. God conquers his enemies by his grace
 - i. Saul
 - c. Three aspects of God's grace:
 - i. Unconditional affection **(7-8)**
 - ii. Dispels fear **(17-20)**
 - iii. Increases blessings over time **(21-22)**
6. How do the people and things in your life score on this grading scale? How would you grade your influence?
- a. Unconditional affection - do they love you for who you are, not for what you can do for them?
 - b. Dispel fear - do they leverage their influence for your well-being - physical,

emotional, mental, spiritual - not to intimidate, harm, or take advantage of you?

- c. Increase blessings over time - the more time you spend with people and things, does your life become more enriched?
7. Conclusion: Les Mis - Priest/Jean Valjean - Bring your faith home by evaluating the influences in your life and the influence you are on others. Are they characterized by grace or greed? If it ain't grace, give it space.