

Teach the Praiseworthy Deeds of the Lord

Sermon Text: Psalm 78:1-8

A maskil of Asaph.

- ¹ *O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.*
- ² *I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old—*
- ³ *what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us.*
- ⁴ *We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.*
- ⁵ *He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children,*
- ⁶ *so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.*
- ⁷ *Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.*
- ⁸ *They would not be like their forefathers—a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.*

1.) For good communication and learning to take place there must be a sender and a receiver. What are the assumptions made about the sender and receivers in v. 1-4?

2.) What would be the content of the teaching? (v. 2-5)

3.) What is the intended result? (v. 6-7)

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 11:1-7, 16-21

Love the LORD your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always. ² *Remember today that your children were not the ones who saw and experienced the discipline of the LORD your God: his majesty, his mighty hand, his outstretched arm; ³ the signs he performed and the things he did in the heart of Egypt, both to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his whole country; ⁴ what he did to the Egyptian army, to its horses and chariots, how he overwhelmed them with the waters of the Red Sea as they were pursuing you, and how the LORD brought lasting ruin on them.* ⁵ *It was not your children who saw what he did for you in the desert until you arrived at this place, ⁶ and what he did to Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab the Reubenite, when the earth opened its mouth right in the middle of all Israel and swallowed them up with their households, their tents and every living thing that belonged to them.* ⁷ *But it was your own eyes that saw all these great things the LORD has done.*

¹⁶ *Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them.* ¹⁷ *Then the LORD's anger will burn against you, and he will shut the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the LORD is giving you.* ¹⁸ *Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.* ¹⁹ *Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.* ²⁰ *Write them on the doorframes of your houses*

and on your gates, ²¹ so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

1.) The Bible has two central teachings: the law and the gospel. What is the purpose of each?

Reread verses 1-6 and identify law or gospel phrases. What were the lessons to be learned from each event?

2.) In Jesus' day some of the Pharisees took verse 18 literally and wore clasps and headbands with tiny scrolls of Scripture in them (called phylacteries). While there is nothing sinful about such a practice (just as there is nothing sinful about wearing a cross or wearing a Christian T-shirt), in context of verses 18-21, what is the deeper spiritual lesson?

3.) It is incumbent upon parents to teach their children God's Word. What are some practical ways for them to accomplish this blessed goal?

Gospel: Matthew 7:24-27

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

1.) What are the storms of life? How does God's Word provide a firm foundation on which withstand such onslaughts?

2.) To build on anything other than Christ is to build a shack or a mansion on sand. What are some false foundations that cannot weather the storm?