

Deuteronomy 6:16-25 *Worshiping and Serving the One True God*

Introduction: Moses has repeated the Ten Commandments to the people of Israel. In our previous text he began to explain to them how the first commandment applied to them.

The first commandment is, “Thou shalt love no other gods before me.” (In our previous text he pointed out that they were to serve God out of love and gratitude, that they were to teach their children the ways of God and that they were to beware lest they become negligent about serving God. They were warned not to be enticed into the religions of the surrounding nations.)

In our text today Moses continues to explain how the first commandment was to apply to their lives. He pointed out that the first commandment, if they obey it, would keep them worshiping and serving the one true God.

I. A warning not to tempt God to punish them V. 16

- A. Moses reminded them of the time when the older generation had tempted God at Massah.
- B. In their journey from Egypt, they had come to a place where there was no water.
 - 1. The people complained and expressed doubt that God was with them at all. (After all the miracles and even though the cloud was still with them.)
 - 2. They accused Moses of bringing them to this place just so that they would all die of thirst.
 - 3. They were about ready to stone Moses and get a new leader.
- C. It was tempting for God to just wipe them out and start all over with Moses to raise a nation to Abraham.
- D. They needed to remember that God punishes His people for their sin. (This is a good lesson for us Christians.)

II. A challenge to be diligent in doing right V. 17-19

- A. Moses challenged them to be diligent in their efforts to obey God – not only in obeying the first commandment – but in obeying all of God's commandment. V. 17 (The fact of God's existence is the basis for obedience to God in all things.)
- B. Yet they were not to be haphazard in their worship and service to God; they were to be diligent, V. 18.
 - 1. They were to be zealous in their worship of God.
 - 2. They were to be zealous in their obedience to His commands.
 - 3. They were to be zealous in their efforts to please God.
- C. By servicing God diligently and pleasing God they would bring good upon their nation and upon themselves and their family.
 - 1. The righteousness of the people of a nation brings God's blessings on the whole nation, (and the individuals.)
 - 2. The unrighteousness of a people brings punishment from God upon the nation as a whole, (and upon the individuals.)
 - 3. By serving God they would be serving their nation and their family and themselves.
- D. Specifically for Israel, their faithfulness to God would bring God's assistance in driving the enemy nations out of the land, V. 19.

III. An easy way to teach the children about God V. 20-23

- A. Back in V. 7-8 God had told them to teach their children the truths of God; now God tells them an easy way to teach and train the children.

- B. God said, “When the children ask 'why' tell them about God”, V. 20.
 - 1. Children have a natural curiosity and ask “Why?”.
 - 2. This would offer parents and grandparents a great opportunity to explain that they had once been in bondage to the Egyptians and that God had delivered them, V. 21-23.
 - 3. In a similar way Christian parents and grandparents can explain to children that they were once in bondage to sin, but that Jesus Christ has freed them from that bondage.
- C. Now God asks that the Israelites be grateful to Him and keep His commandments, V. 24.
 - 1. God did not want to have to punish them for their disobedience.
 - 2. God preferred to bless them for their obedience.

IV. Righteousness not a curse, but a blessing V. 25

- A. If the people of Israel would be faithful to God to worship Him and keep His commandments, their obedience to God would not deprive them of the better things of life. (It is Satan who seeks to get people to believe that if they love and serve God they will miss out on the greater blessings and pleasures of life.)
- B. The opposite is true.
 - 1. The neglect of worship to God and disobedience to God brings punishment from God.
 - 2. It is by righteousness that the greater joys and blessings of life are obtained.
 - 3. The scriptures say, “Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” (And so it is with any family or any individual.)

Conclusion: May we, as Christians, seek to be faithful and true to God and to live in a way that pleases Him.