

Intro: Last Sunday night, we had the privilege of watching six friends profess their faith in Christ through the word of their testimony and through identifying with Christ and his people through baptism. One of the clearest and sweetest testimonies came from our youngest new believer, Alethia Coppenger. Though only 8 years old, she clearly has a great grasp of the gospel. She shared that even though she had heard the stories of Jesus many times, it was not until this past Halloween when she was carving a Jack-o-lantern with her mother Tiffany that the gospel became real to her personally.

She explained that like a Jack-o-lantern our lives can look really nice on the outside, but be full of slimy, icky stuff on the inside. That icky stuff is the sin in our lives that Jesus died on the cross to forgive. I'm so grateful Alethia and five others shared how Christ has forgiven them and made them new from the inside-out.

But inherent in her testimony was the reality that we all understand very well. It's easy to put on a show and look great on the outside when our lives are really a mess on the inside.

T: Our passage in Deuteronomy 5-6 today is going to help us understand the connection between God renovating our hearts on the inside, so that our actions are true & sincere on the outside.

“The True & Greater Moses” Deuteronomy 5-6

Context: Deuteronomy brings us to the end of Israel's forty years of wandering in the wilderness. Now, after forty years of desert wandering, they find themselves on the edge of entering the Promised Land. It is here where Moses delivers a series of sermons calling Israel to live for God so that they might experience his blessing in the land.

The purpose of Deuteronomy is found in 1:5 where it says “Beyond the Jordan, in the land of Moab, Moses undertook to explain the law.” So what do we learn about God's law that we can take apply to our relationship with God today?

I want us to consider three encouragements from Deuteronomy: 1) what it means to receive God's commands, 2) keep his commands from a heart of love, and 3) finally how we can be consumed with the Word to the point of passing it on to others. To sum it up, we are called to . . .

The Point: Live the Word from a heart of love, and lead others to do the same.

To begin with, we cannot live the Word from a heart of love, and lead others to do the same, if we have not . . .

I. Receive God's commands as his revealed will for our lives (5:1-21).

The word “law” (Deut 4:44) is the Hebrew word *torah*, which refers to God's divine will for his people. This law is typically articulated in commands for God's people to keep. Though our use of the word “law” typically carries negative connotations (Don't get in trouble with the law), in Scripture the law is to be learned, pondered, and obeyed.

When we encounter God's will for us in Scripture, we must clearly grasp of *the nature* of these commands. For starters, we need to understand . . .

These are God's words. Read 5:1-5

Call to "Hear" (5:1). LISTEN!

- Listen up! Why? These are the words of God (1-2). God made a covenant with his people at Sinai to reveal his will for them as a nation under his theocratic rule (2).
- "Statutes and rules" in verse 1 refers to all Moses is about to say before they cross the Jordan.
- Pause for a moment and consider: they were hearing the words of God. God has spoken decisively in pages of Scripture. The 39 books of the OT and the 27 books of the NT are breathed out by God, inspired by the Spirit and capture the authoritative word of God handed down by the prophets, apostles, and God himself.
- I love what **1 Thessalonians 2:13** says about how we should receive the word when we read it or hear rightfully preached: "**And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.**"
- One of the marks of a mature Christian is a love for God's Word. Show me someone devouring his or her Bible, and I'll show you someone growing in godliness.
- Charles Spurgeon said it this way: "**A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't.**"
- We often suffer from pride that says, "Oh, I got it. I've heard that. I know what it says . . ." The Word is inexhaustibly deep. It is an ocean of infinite truth because it is the word of the infinite God.
- We, who are so familiar with the Bible, can we name the Ten Commandments? If so, can we explain their significance? How should we relate to them as Christians?

Verses 6-21 recount the Ten Commandments. Rather than reading this section

The Ten Commandments

- The 10 Commandments reveal the character of God. In many respects, they function as a summary of God's will for his people. The Mosaic law is an expression of God's eternal moral law. Though we do not live under the Mosaic law, most of these commandments are expressions of God's eternal moral law still in effect for Christians who live under the "law of Christ."
- These commands told God's people what to do!
 - We often resist authority.
 - If I told you to stand up, run outside and do fifty jumping jacks, you probably would be hesitant if not tell me I'm crazy. Not simply because that's a totally random command, but primarily because we do not naturally enjoy being told what to do.
 - Why? Well, sometimes human authority is tainted by selfish desires and twisted motives.
 - We project our human experience onto our experience with God.
 - God never speaks out of a selfish motive. He always guides us for our good.

What are the Ten Commandments?

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.

- **God over Everything!** Over relationships. Over our job. God over degrees. God over comfort. God over money & possessions. God over everything. Jesus over everything.
- Think about this: All other commands we break results from breaking the first one.

2. You shall not make idols.

3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

4. Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

5. Honor your father and your mother.

6. You shall not murder.

7. You shall not commit adultery.

8. You shall not steal.

- 9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 10. You shall not covet.

Now, before we move on, we must realize . . .

God's words are for our good.

The preamble to the Decalogue (Ten Words) bears this out.

- There is great irony in the assumption that God's commands are in any way designed to restrict or oppress us. Do you see it?
- The God who gives us commands is the God who "brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." God has always been the Liberator and peace giver. The Garden was a place of harmony and rest (*shalom*), and the new garden city in the restored kingdom of God will also bring eternal rest in God's presence.
- Therefore, we distort and misinterpret the very nature of God and his Word when we wrongly assume his commands are designed to enslave us. He is the one who sets his people free.
- His Word is for our good. Look at verse 24: "And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day."

T: This also brings to our motivation for following God's will . . .

II. Keep God's commands from a heart motivated by love (6:1-6)

Remember, we want to live the Word, but we want to do so from a heart of love.

The Point: Live the Word from a heart of love, and lead others to do the same.

God is not simply interested in activity. God desires for us to keep his commands from the heart

- Read 6:1-6
- It is pretty easy to display an outward appearance of godliness. There were some people in Jesus' day known as the Pharisees . . . And if we are being honest, we all have Pharisaic tendencies.
- We all are prone to putting on the show. Posing. . .
- We can greet one another this morning, but is our heart in it? We sing these songs, but are they flowing from a sincere desire for God? Do we show up to Community Group out of routine or devotion?
- These verses teach us that the loyalty God is looking for is a matter of the heart. This greatest command calls us to complete loyalty to God alone.
- Verse 4 is known as the *Shema*. "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one!" Worship him, love him with everything you've got.
- Remember, the goal is worship. That's why 6:5 is so important... Love!
- We should be motivated by the work of God on our behalf.
 - Preamble to the Decalogue (5:6)
 - Romans 12:1-2. When we see Christ's love on the cross, it should ignite our love for him and move us to obedience.
- Love should motivate everything. Love operating out a fear of God (meaning a deep reverence and awe of God) should dominate everything we do.
- When Jesus was asked what is the greatest commandment, he simply quoted these words (Matthew 23:37)
- God is not interested in performance. He is peering into our hearts and desires for our entire being to be engaged.

- Heart: the seat of the will. Affections, emotions, ___
- Soul: all of who we are. Our entire being.
- Might (Strength): All of our capacity. All of our natural abilities and resources.
- [Mind]
- Verse 6 continues to emphasize this: “put them on your heart.” These words seem to anticipate the new covenant, when God promises to write his laws on our hearts “so that it is not just his will imposed from outside, but it is his will experienced from the inside as our own will).” – Piper on the New Covenant.
- Andy Davis has a really helpful section on Christian Character in his new book, *An Infinite Journey* that informs what it means to love God with all of our heart, soul, and might. He says: “Christian character is **1) loving what Christ loves and hating what Christ hates** (Affections); **2) desiring what Christ would desire**; **3) choosing what Christ would choose and rejecting what Christ would reject** (Will); 4) having the mind of Christ, **so thinking his thoughts**; **5) feeling what Christ would feel (emotions)**; **6) being what Christ is.**”
- Our love for God expands as we value what he values and delight in what delights him.
- This is why John Owen described **communion as “the sharing of good things between persons who are mutually delighted being cemented together by some union.”**
- We experience communion as a kind of “cementing effect” (what great imagery) that comes through shared delight.
- Do you love the Word? Do you love holiness? (Yes, we should actually love it. That’s how Hebrews 1 describes Jesus. “You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.”
- Do you love God’s mission? Do you desire the Spirit’s work?
- As you grow in your love for the things of God, it will take you into a deeper experience of fellowship with God! That cementing effect will happen.
- This is true of our human relationships as well. When you find others who love the Word, love holiness, love God’s mission, and desire for the Spirit to work, then you will find a cementing effect happening through your shared delight.
- The best families experience this and the best church families experience this.
- Do you see how the gospel undercuts moralism? Do this. Don’t do that. Be a good little Christian.
- No! It is obedience motivated by a heart captivated by a vision of God and his grace toward us.

T: Finally . . .

III. Weave the Word into the fabric of your life so that you naturally share it with others (6:6-9)

The Point: Live the Word from a heart of love, and lead others to do the same.

- Missiological Spiral . . . **Know the Word. Live the Word. Share the Word.**
- Verses 6-9 teaches us coming to the Word is not like a chore we perform but an ocean to immerse ourselves in.
- We have the picture of complete saturation & immersion.
- The words of God are so important that they are to saturate our lives and be completely woven into the fabric of our lives. We have meditated, even memorized the Word that we might honor God and share this life-giving truth with others.
- The Scriptures are the lens by which we see the world as God sees it.
- Basketball ??? An extension of who I am.. You can’t see where I begin and the Word ends. It’s just all up in us!

- Parents: what might it look like to have a Bible-saturated home? Would that include reading stories to your children? Maybe it could start with something as simple as reviewing what they learn in Transformation Station. How about sharing what God is teaching you? Then as life situations arise, you can share wisdom and teaching from God's Word with your kids.
- This is not just for parents. Every disciple is to "let the word of Christ dwell in us richly." Think about those words. . .(Col 3:15)
- That richness tells us there's more than an acquaintance with truth but a deep understanding and experience
- Christian: what might it look like to lead a Bible-saturated life? Talking about it. Sharing it. Encouraging others with it. Praying it. Singing it. Feeling it. Loving it. Soaking it up.
- What higher privilege do we have than carrying out the great command Jesus left us with to make disciples by telling others God's truth.
- I have been so encouraged to hear many of you are sharing your faith... We want to see many, many people come to faith in Christ (And it's already happening!). We want to see 240 in worship attendance this month. I'm telling you, it's more than possible. Who will you bring? 3rd Anniversary. Lunch to follow? Who will you invite to join you for Easter?

T: All things are possible because of our True & Greater Moses . . .

Conclusion: **Jesus is the true and greater Moses..**

- **Deuteronomy 18:15: "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen."**
 - 1) He brings a new covenant.** We live under the law of Christ.
 - 2) He is faithful over God's house as a Son.** He fulfilled the law. He is the end of the law for all who believe.
 - 3) He strengthens us for the journey.** He empowers us by his Spirit.
 - 4) He takes us to a better promised land.** He will take us home. Moses could not enter the land of rest as Deuteronomy 34 tells us. Jesus is our rest and will lead us into his presence.

Take a step toward renewal with God today. Live the Word from a heart of love, and lead others to do the same.

Pray. "From the Inside-Out"