

**Week Eleven - March 16/17**  
**PEOPLE OF THE BOOK**  
**Deuteronomy 6:1-15**

**NOTE:** The CBT Teachers Guide does have more verses and chapters for Week 11, but we are going to narrow it down to simply teaching these verses out of Deuteronomy 6

*People doing the daily reading would have read this passage on March 14<sup>th</sup>*

People always asked questions. If you think about it, we go through life asking questions. It starts at a very young age, with the most popular question of all time: WHY? Of course, the obvious answer to that question is: BECAUSE.

From that moment on, it seems like we are never quite “satisfied” with the answers to our questions.

- AS KIDS: “How fast can you run?” “What position do you want to play?” “What time do I have to be home?” “What are we having for dinner?”
- IN SCHOOL: “How much homework do we have?” “When is it due?” “Why did you give me an “F”, again?” “Don’t you use other letters in the alphabet when grading my papers?”
- FIRST DATE: “What’s your favorite movie?” “Where did you grow up?” “How much money do you make?” or “Why do I have to pay?” Not great questions if you want a second date.
- FIRST DAY at JOB: “Where’s the copy machine?” “Where does everybody go for lunch?” “Is the boss always like that?”
- WHEN YOU GET YOUR FIRST PAYCHECK: “The government gets HOW MUCH????”
- MID-30’s and AFTER: “What happened to my metabolism?” “Why does my hair get thinner and my waist get thicker?”
- VARIOUS STAGES OF LIFE: “Is this all there is to life?”

Throughout life, we have always asked questions. And the one constant is knowing that when we ask questions, we expect answers. We may not always agree with the answers. We may not always understand the answers, but when we ask questions, we expect to receive answers.

That has been the case from the beginning of time. Two thousand years ago someone asked Jesus a question. "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus, the Son of God, all powerful and all knowing, did something that I think was brilliant. He answered the question with a question, saying “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?”

The answer the man gave Jesus was a quote from the Old Testament; in fact, it’s from the passage we will be looking at today: Deuteronomy chapter 6.

As we continue with the Exodus Era, we begin looking at the book of Deuteronomy, believed to have been written by Moses. The name “Deuteronomy” means “second law” or ‘repetition of the law”. In this book, Moses reviews the law originally given at Mt. Sinai and applies it to Israel’s life in the land of Canaan. It also contains instructions and exhortations concerning the conquest of the land and Israel’s relationship to the inhabitants of the land. (*Wiersbe Bible Commentary of the OT*, pg. 306)

This isn't a sequel, it is a rerun, these are the same laws, they did not change over the course of time.

Moses had already delivered God's law in the form of Ten Commandments, but now 40 years have gone by in the wilderness, and there is a new generation of people. In fact, in Deuteronomy 5, the Ten Commandments are repeated just like they are found in the book of Exodus. So, it isn't new; they are simply repeated a second time, this time to a new audience.

Now picture the people of God; 40 years ago, they had been slaves in Egypt under the authority of Pharaoh. God delivered them out of that slavery, out of that bondage, out of Egypt, and heading to the Promised Land! However, there was a “slight” detour in the wilderness that took about 40 years, instead of what could have been a two-week journey.

But now they are approximately 20 miles from the Promised Land; they are on the 5-yard line in the Red Zone; they are rounding 3<sup>rd</sup> base and heading for the home plate; they are on the 18<sup>th</sup> green lining up the putt; you get the point. They are “looking at it” and they can smell it. It is on the horizon.

And Moses is giving the “team” some words of wisdom to prepare them for what lies ahead. Remember for these people it is still a complete unknown of what lies ahead in practical terms.

What he says to them is exactly what was used as the “answer to the question” in the New Testament with Jesus, concerning, “what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

Look in Deuteronomy 6 beginning with verse 1 to get the context.

**Deuteronomy 6: 1** “Now this *is* the commandment, *and these are* the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe *them* in the land which you are crossing over to possess, 2 that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.” (*March 14<sup>th</sup>*, pg. 274)

Moses is speaking with a heart of a leader; a leader who is preparing his team, his people, the ones he has been with all these years. He is seeing the new generation and preparing them for the Promised Land and a new life.

This is the commandment, statutes, judgments which the LORD YOUR God has commanded me to teach you.

It's important to realize that this relationship with God is personal. It does not rely on your heritage. An entire generation has passed away during the 40 years. It's a personal relationship with a personal God. Moses wanted them to realize that from the beginning. The LORD, means Jehovah, the one true God. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Yes, this is the same God of your ancestors, but God is personal, Jehovah is YOUR God.

This is really between you and God, says Moses. I'm merely the instrument He is using to deliver His message. He desires that it won't stop with you; but you will receive it in such a way that it does impact your family (multi-generationally), your friends, and your entire life.

As we continue, we hear the passion of a leader, almost of a coach looking out for the best in his team.

**Deuteronomy 6: 3** "Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe *it*, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you—'a land flowing with milk and honey.'" (*March 14<sup>th</sup>, pg. 274*)

This verse talks specifically about the Promised Land. Notice how the Covenant that God made with Abraham during the Patriarch Era is continuing "*that you may multiply greatly.*" But Moses is also talking about a land flowing with milk and honey.

Now milk and honey may not be that exciting for us today. If I told you that I was preparing a place for you filled with milk and honey you might start with some of these questions - "Is it low-fat milk?" "2% milk?" "whole milk?" "soy milk?" "almond milk?" "coconut milk?" "is the honey, raw honey?" "local honey" (*supposedly helps with allergies*).

They didn't seem to be that particular about the milk and honey. In that time and in that culture, milk represented the "necessities" of life and honey represented the "luxuries" of life.

In essence, God was preparing a place for them where all of their necessary needs would be met. And the place would be abundant in having even more than their mere needs; they would have everything they needed and much, much more (*luxuries of life*)! The land of milk and honey.

Now the next few verses are quoted directly in the book of Luke when that man, who happened to be a lawyer, asked Jesus that question; Here is where the answer came from.

In fact, the entire answer can be summed up with three words, which I would encourage you to remember. LOVE. LIVE. LOOK

**Deuteronomy 6: 4** "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! <sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." (*March 14<sup>th</sup>, pg. 274*)

## LOVE

Notice what Moses does first. Moses reminds the people the LORD is our God; the LORD is one! Remember God is a personal God involved in a personal relationship with His people. In that day and time and in that culture, it was very easy to get distracted by the “tangible” small “g” gods that became idols. Remember what God’s people did in Exodus 32 with the making of the golden calf?

They, like us, needed to be reminded that there is only ONE TRUE GOD; Period! He is not like any other “god” created by man, conjured up by man, imagined by man. God, the Creator of the Universe is a Personal God who has lead them out of slavery, out of bondage, out of Egypt and is about to let them go into the land which He promised them; the land of milk and honey.

**Question:** So what does God require of His people?

**Answer:** You shall LOVE the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

That word “love” is such a funny word and often times such a weak word, especially in the English language.

We so flippantly say, “I love that movie,” “I love that song,” “I love that car,” “I love the weather,” “I love chocolate,” (okay, so that one isn't flippant, that's serious love). But we throw that word around so much, in many cases, it has lost its true meaning.

The Bible says, “You shall LOVE the Lord your God!”

It almost seems like the people in the days of Moses listening to this were very much like us, because it could’ve ended with that: “You shall love the Lord your God.” Okay fine. Good to go. No problem.

But it doesn’t stop there; God, through Moses goes on to tell us what that love is really like.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and it doesn’t stop there; with all your soul; and it doesn’t stop there; and with all your strength.

I’m not a doctor or scientist, but I do know on physical reality; if your heart stops beating, you stop living. So, I think it is no accident that the very first thing listed here is heart.

Love God with all your heart. With the essence of your life, of your being, you are to love God.

- **Heart**---represents the mind, the affections, the will
- **Soul**--this is your emotions, your passions. You are to love your God from your inner most being. Some people are very emotional when they pray when they truly feel that connection to God, it comes from their soul.
- **Strength**—(some translations say “*your might*”) your body, your eyes, ears, mouth, hands, feet, everything you have is to love the Lord your God.

Heart, Soul, Strength, from the inside-out you are to Love God! With your ENTIRE being!

So that's the LOVE part....now let's look at the LIVE part, continuing in verse 6

## **LIVE**

**Deuteronomy 6: 6** “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes (*on your forehead*). <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” (*March 14<sup>th</sup>, pg. 274*)

Moses wanted these words, “Love the Lord Your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength; To be “in your heart”.

**Question:** What is the importance of the heart?

**Answer:** It is the essence of life, your actual breathing and pumping blood, your existence.

These words of how you Love the LORD your God, should be “in your heart”, .in the essence of your life, your breathing, your existence, your sitting, walking, lying down, rising. That's how important these words are and the truth that they reveal.

Basically, Moses said, “if these words are in your heart, they will show up in your life” Which makes perfect sense, if something is in your heart it will show up in the way you live.

One of our pastors on the West Campus, Wallace Henley, has this saying,

“Whatever fills your bucket is what sloshes out on others.”

If you have ever carried a bucket filled to the top and start walking, some of it is going to slosh out no matter how careful you may be. If you have anger towards someone, that is eventually going to come out in how you live, how you talk, how you relate. If you have bitterness towards someone, it's going to “slosh” out on others. If you have happiness, in the same way, that will slosh out on others. Whatever is on the inside will show on the outside.

Moses is saying, not only to LOVE God, but LIVE IT OUT!

Look again at verse 7:

**Vs. 7** " You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up." (*March 14<sup>th</sup>, pg. 274*)

Teach them diligently to your kids. Be an example, a model. It doesn't matter what stage of life you may be; you have the opportunity and responsibility to be an example. You may be an example to a niece or nephew, a son or daughter, a grandson or granddaughter, or even a neighbor.

**(Teachers:** it would be good to try to use a personal example in this section, as you will see mine below)

I'm going to use my wife as an example. She was a single mom for almost 12 years before we got married.

About 5 years into being a single mom, she went to a bible study at a local church and realized even though she knew "about" God, though she didn't "know" God personally. So as an adult in her mid-30's as a single mom, she accepted Christ as her personal savior. Someone invited her to Second, and she got connected here actively involved in our single parent ministry. And she did something very significant; she brought her daughter with her. From the very beginning of her new relationship with Christ as her Lord and Savior, she began modeling and being an example. But not only at church, but also at home.

My wife, as a single mom, loved the Lord with all her heart, all her soul, all her strength; and she taught it to her daughter. She left her bedroom door open so her daughter could see her praying on her knees at night. She began answering her daughter's questions with the Bible in her hand and looking at scripture. Her daughter came to know Christ through the example of her mom. Now she is has graduated from Dallas Baptist University, living a life that is an example to others as she now, not only loves the Lord with all her heart, soul and might, she lives it out daily.

Moses is saying, "don't keep it to yourself". LIVE IT! Even if it's not popular. The world in which we live in today is increasingly becoming more hostile and negative towards Christianity and living a life based on Biblical principles. It was no easier in the days of Moses; we are challenged today to live this truth out in our daily lives.

Look back to verse 7; talk of it when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up. If you are home; LIVE IT. If you are walking around Memorial Park; LIVE IT. If you are driving down I-10 (which may be more difficult); but LIVE IT. When you lie down at night; LIVE IT. When you rise up in the morning; LIVE IT. When you go to work: LIVE IT.

Wherever you are, whatever time of day, whatever the circumstances, alone or in a crowd; LIVE IT.

**Moses then says....**

**Vs. 8** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes (*on your forehead*). **9** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (*March 14<sup>th</sup>, pg. 274*)

What they did back in the days of Moses was take a leather band and wear it as a reminder of the law of God. Not unlike when a few years ago so many people wore the "W.W. J.D." wristbands, or some of the wrist bands we have worn based on a sermon series.

It was a tangible reminder not only for them but for those who saw them.

We are to LOVE God; with all our heart, soul and strength. We are to LIVE it out wherever we are, and now we are to LOOK!

## **LOOK**

**Deuteronomy 6: 10** “So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, (*Patriarch Era*) to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, <sup>11</sup> houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full— <sup>12</sup> *then* beware (*watch yourself*), lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. <sup>13</sup> You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. <sup>14</sup> You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who *are* all around you <sup>15</sup> for the LORD your God *is* a jealous God among you, lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you (*wipe you off*) from the face of the earth.” (*March 14<sup>th</sup>, pg. 274*)

In verse 10 Moses is telling them what to expect and look for when God takes them to the land which He has promise. He is telling them to LOOK at what God has done for them and reminding them each step of the way, they did NOT do it themselves!

- Vs. 10 b---which you did not build.
- Vs. 11b ---which you did not fill
- Vs. 11c---which you did not dig
- Vs. 11d---which you did not plant

In case they didn't get the message, it was this: You did not do this on your own. You did not accomplish this on your own. You did not create this on your own. You did not deserve this on your own.

- But LOOK at ALL God has DONE....FOR YOU.
- LOOK at ALL of what God has PROVIDED....FOR YOU.
- LOOK at ALL of what God has PREPARED....FOR YOU.

And in verse 12 Moses gets very serious, almost like a coach right before a big game; the “pep” talk is over, now time for the “wrap up.”

**Vs. 12** then beware (*watch yourself*), lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage (*slavery*).

**Question:** What does it mean to “watch yourself”?

**Answer:** Be aware of what you listen to; what you look at; what you say; what you think; what your dream about. Be aware of who you are around; where you hang out; where you rest and relax. Be aware of how you spend money, how you spend your time. BE AWARE!

Beware. Watch yourself. LOOK OUT! Moses is giving them a warning because he has seen it happen before.

LOOK at ALL God has done, ALL God has provided, ALL God has prepared. Don't forget what God has done for you. Don't forget what God has provided for you. Don't forget what God has prepared for you.

Beware. Watch yourself. LOOK OUT!

Remember this same God, the one true God, the Creator of the Universe brought you and your families out of Egypt, out of slavery, out of bondage, out of the old way of life, the miserable way of life, the helpless way of life, the hopeless way of life. God brought you OUT of that which is your past and INTO this new land of promise! The Land of Milk and Honey!

LOVE. LIVE. LOOK.

God has a plan and purpose for each of us. But that plan and purpose requires a response.

**God Speaks** through His Word to every generation and expects us to Love Him with all our heart, soul and strength.

**God Acts** by modeling how to Live it out with various people in scripture including Moses, but most especially Jesus.

**God Reveals** what we are to Look for on this journey of life taking notice of All that He has done, provided and prepared for us.

Are we going to Love?

Are we going to Live?

Are we going to Look?

That is our challenge this week.