

"Exodus: Journey of Fulfillment"

Week 5

Sermon Date 10/15/2017

MY STORY

- 1) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 2) From last week's study, have you ever screwed up a really good vision for your life? What was it like?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

The Goal

This week we fast forward 40 years in the desert. The generation who doubted that God could get them into the Promised Land have all passed away and their children are grown up and preparing to enter the Promised Land. We pick up the story at Deuteronomy Chapter 6. Moses is challenging the Israelites to hold fast to the commandments God had given them and to do whatever it takes to remember them. The goal this week is to unpack two major questions. What have we done to know God's word, and what will we do to keep the main thing the main thing (the main thing is knowing God and having a relationship with Him).

DIGGING DEEPER

The last we read about the Israelites they had spied out the land of Canaan and found it to be a land flowing with milk and honey. But they disobeyed God, and He disciplined the generation for choosing slavery instead of trusting Him. They were wanderers in the desert for 40 years. During that time anyone over 20 years old at the time they spied out the land passed away. Fast forward 40 years—Moses is giving his last instructions to the Israelites before he dies and give leadership over to Joshua. This is where we pick up the story.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 (NLT)

“These are the commands, decrees, and regulations that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you. You must obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy,² and you and your children and grandchildren must fear the Lord your God as long as you live. If you

obey all his decrees and commands, you will enjoy a long life. ³ Listen closely, Israel, and be careful to obey. Then all will go well with you, and you will have many children in the land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you. ⁴ “Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. ⁶ And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. ⁷ Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. ⁸ Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. ⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.ⁱ

- 4) What is Moses telling the Israelites they must do with the commandments he has given them?

Obey them and teach them to their children. To basically do whatever it takes to remember God's Word.

- 5) In Verse 5 he gives us the most important commandment we are to obey. According to the passage, what are we supposed to do with it?
- 6) There is an emphasis to keep the main thing the main thing. (Which is to love God and obey Him.) Why is it so difficult to keep the main thing the main thing?
- 7) How would your daily life change if you followed the commands of Verses 7-9?
- 8) How many of us go to the lengths described by Moses to remember God's commands, and if you do, what do you do?

Jesus quoted this passage in Mathew 22:34-40. (NLT)

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees with his reply, they met together to question him again. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?”

³⁷ Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”ⁱⁱ

- 9) What is the second equally important command according to Jesus?
- 10) Matthew 22: 37-40 are powerful verses. Do these verses change your perspective and your actions? If so, how?
- 11) Can you disagree with someone and still love them? What does this look like in practice? Can you give an example?

TAKING IT HOME

The word “obey” has some very negative connotations in our world today. When we read these passages about obedience many of us struggle with this concept. The reason is because the things we are a slave to demand our compliance, and we connect this experience to God. The truth is that without the right heart, obedience results in compliance not transformation. As we read these words of Jesus in the passage below, remember two things. First, Jesus loves us and died for us because HE wanted a relationship with us. Second, we could never be good enough to earn His love—it is a free gift.

John 14:15-21 (NLT)

¹⁵ “If you love me, obey my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. ¹⁸ No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. ¹⁹ Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. ²⁰ When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”ⁱⁱⁱ

12) From the passage above, what comes first: love or obedience? Why do you think that is?

13) The word “love” in this passage is the Greek word *agapao* which means to take pleasure in or eagerly look forward to. If this is the kind of love God is seeking and the kind we should have for God, how does it impact our obedience?

For years, my wife had asked me to make the bed when I got up in the morning. For the longest time, I failed in this endeavor, until one day I realized how happy it made her when she came home to a made bed. It occurred to me that I *want* to make her happy. This was an easy way to impact that, so I began to make the bed every day. I changed because I wanted to show her my love, not because I was trying to comply.

14) How do we learn about God's love for us?

In our Chair Time, in His word.

Deuteronomy 6:20-25 (NLT)

²⁰ “In the future your children will ask you, ‘What is the meaning of these laws, decrees, and regulations that the Lord our God has commanded us to obey?’

²¹ “Then you must tell them, ‘We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with his strong hand. ²² The Lord did miraculous signs and wonders before our eyes, dealing terrifying blows against Egypt and Pharaoh and all his people. ²³ He brought us out of Egypt so he could give us this land he had sworn to give our ancestors. ²⁴ And the Lord our God

commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear him so he can continue to bless us and preserve our lives, as he has done to this day.²⁵ For we will be counted as righteous when we obey all the commands the Lord our God has given us.^{iv}

15) What are we supposed to pass on to our children when they ask about our faith?

16) When we obey from a place of *love*, how does that change the way we read the above passage?

17) What will you do differently this week to connect with the *love* of God and obey Him?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Read the entire book of 1 John and meditate on these questions.

18) What does this book teach about God?

19) What does this book say about my response to Him?

20) What do I need to do to fall more deeply in love with God?

ⁱ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Dt 6:1–9.

ⁱⁱ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Mt 22:34–40.

ⁱⁱⁱ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Jn 14:15–21.

^{iv} Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Dt 6:20–25.