

Your Eyes Have Seen

Deuteronomy 11:1-7 (NKJV)

“Therefore you shall love the Lord your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always. 2 Know today that I do not speak with your children, who have not known and who have not seen the chastening of the Lord your God, His greatness and His mighty hand and His outstretched arm— 3 His signs and His acts which He did in the midst of Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all his land; 4 what He did to the army of Egypt, to their horses and their chariots: how He made the waters of the Red Sea overflow them as they pursued you, and how the Lord has destroyed them to this day; 5 what He did for you in the wilderness until you came to this place; 6 and what He did to Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, their households, their tents, and all the substance that was in their possession, in the midst of all Israel— 7 but your eyes have seen every great act of the Lord which He did.

“He is your praise, and He is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things which your eyes have seen. Your fathers went down to Egypt with seventy persons, and now the Lord your God has made you as the stars of heaven in multitude.”

Deuteronomy 11:1 (NKJV)

“Therefore you shall love the Lord your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always.

This instruction comes from Moses to the people of God as a response to the fact that God is your praise and your God who has done great and awesome things...

Therefore...as a result of that...love the Lord! Don't we love the things that bring joy to our lives? Don't we love the things that bring purpose to our lives? What about things that benefit us?

Jesus is your praise, your song, your reason to sing...He is joy...He gives you purpose...and there is not one single thing about Jesus that is not a benefit to your life...It's all good!

Therefore LOVE HIM!

How? How do you show your love? Keep His charge, statutes, judgements, and commandments...ALWAYS.

To keep His charge, a charge is something to be looked over, kept, observed. This charge is to watch over or guard His statutes, judgements, commandments.

This is how you love the Lord...guard these things...

- **Statutes** - ordinance, something prescribed

Think of this like a set of boundaries. God has set limits on us as far as what we can and can not do. As our Creator, He knows what is best for us, what is for our good. It's something He prescribed...but will we accept it.

We are all about testing the limits, right? We want to do things that we can't do. We want "superpowers", we want bigger, stronger, faster, immune. But these limits are prescribed not to limit life but to preserve it!

We have statutes here today that we are observing. (social distancing, masks, handwashing, stay home, etc) We may not agree with them, we may not even be sure if they are actually in our best interest or not...because they were prescribed by men.

But with God, every statute, every prescription for His children are for their good...and when we keep these statutes, we express our love for Him.

- **Judgements** - decisions, sentence

God handles the situations concerning His children. He has a process to hand out the appropriate consequences for each situation. How many times in the Psalms do we see David cry out and ask God when He will bring judgement upon some people who did wrong?

God is just. This means every decision, every sentence, is right. It's the correct result. It's the proper amount. It's the perfect time.

Today we see the judgements of man, made according to agendas, favors, political back scratching...unjust! Like this salon owner in Texas who was put in jail for 7 days and fined \$7k for reopening her salon. The judge told her to apologize and he'd drop the jail time...unjust! The State's Attorney said to let her out, people in the public have paid her fine...the judgements of man are easily corrupted and the innocent are ruled guilty while the guilty are ruled innocent!

But God is just....and in His judgments, the innocent are vindicated and the guilty are responsible for restitution!

When we protect His judgements...His decisions...His sentences or consequences...we express our love for Him.

- **Commandments** - issued orders, mandates

Basically laws. Here are the dos and don'ts. This is where the blessing or the judgements come from. You are free to do and enjoy these things, in fact you SHOULD do them...they are good for you...they will help you live your best life, a others-centered life. This leads to a blessed life.

But if you do the don'ts, you will be punished. You might have fun doing them but they are not good for you and will bring consequences that lead to judgement.

The Ten Commandments are a good example of this. They show us how to love God and love people. They also show us how to not love God and not love people. And when we choose this path, we come under judgement.

When we keep the commandments we express our love for God.

He's your praise, He's your God, He's done great and awesome things that your eyes have seen! Love Him by keeping and guarding these statutes, judgements, and commandments. They keep you close to Him!

Deuteronomy 11:2 (NKJV)

Know today that I do not speak with your children, who have not known and who have not seen the chastening of the Lord your God, His greatness and His mighty hand and His outstretched arm—

Here Moses distinguished between the adults and the children in the group. The adults had experienced the power of God, both in His discipline and in His greatness. They had been in Egypt, they had been in the wilderness...

The children (immature) have experienced very little, they were born in the wilderness, in the time of wandering. They lacked understanding of God's discipline and power. They only knew what they were told...

Consider a person immature in their faith, lots of questions, basic questions...it's not a bad thing, it's good. They have to be taught so they know the character of God until they experience it themselves.

The adults (mature) had seen greatness. It was their responsibility to remember and teach it to the children. (v19) If they are going to teach it, they've got to remember what they've experienced.

What has God done in your life? What should you be teaching your children. What should you be teaching believers that are not as far along in their faith as you?

There is a difference between hearing and experiencing...hearing gives you knowledge but experiencing brings understanding.

We need to hear about the power of God but then we need to experience it.

What are the things they experienced? Moses reminds them of 4 areas that they experienced God's power.

Deuteronomy 11:3 (NKJV)

His signs and His acts which He did in the midst of Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all his land;

1. Miraculous intervention

When the people of God were back in Egypt, they were in a place of captivity. A place they could not escape. A place where they did not belong. A place that sometimes actually seemed pretty good but ultimately had them in bondage.

Some knew they needed out, others didn't recognize the oppression. They were in a place that required God's miraculous intervention. There was no other way out. Their captor was not going to willingly release them...why would he?

Can you think of a time in your life where you were in Egypt? When you needed a miraculous intervention? And God rescued you?

I remember a time I was bound. A time I was captive to satan. Addicted to alcohol, pornography, had frequent angry outbursts, could out-cuss a sailor...and I didn't even know I needed saving...

Until the day I experienced Jesus. Oh I had heard about Him. I had knowledge. But then I experienced His love...I gained understanding. I was set free! I was filled with His Spirit.

Do you remember that time in your life? Do you have a story to tell of His miraculous intervention? Doesn't it draw you back to His statutes? The prescriptions that preserve your life?

Deuteronomy 11:4 (NKJV)

what He did to the army of Egypt, to their horses and their chariots: how He made the waters of the Red Sea overflow them as they pursued you, and how the Lord has destroyed them to this day;

2. Destroyed the enemy

God reminds them that when He saved them...their enemy pursued them. And not only did the Lord part the sea for them to cross, but He allowed the enemy to get close...close enough that He could make the water flow over them, drown them, destroy them.

“and how the Lord has destroyed them to this day”

Church we have an enemy...his name is satan...and if Jesus has saved you, satan pursues you. There are times where He gets close, there are times where you can hear the footsteps, you are seemingly in his reach, but our God has already destroyed him and had to this day!

Colossians 2:15 (NKJV)

Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Can I tell you today that if you belong to Jesus, then the enemy has no power over you? He's been disarmed...stripped of his weapons.

We just celebrated the empty grave...you know how stupid that grave made the devil look? He was as surprised as Mary and the guards when that stone was rolled away!

What are some times in your life where the enemy pursued you until you reminded him that he has already been defeated? Doesn't it draw you back to His judgements? He is just in all His ways!

This is something you not only need to remember but you need to tell it to the people in your life. Remind them of the enemies defeat.

Deuteronomy 11:5 (NKJV)

what He did for you in the wilderness until you came to this place;

3. Provided for their needs, even in a time of rebellion, idolatry, complaining

As God's children wandered in the desert...they had needs. What we forget is that in Egypt, even though they were in bondage, their needs were met. They had good food and a roof over their head.

They get in the wilderness and all of the sudden freedom doesn't seem so great.

Anybody been there? I don't think I can count the number of people I've seen "go back to Egypt". How many people get saved and at first they are so excited to be free. But then, they begin to reflect on how good they had it in captivity. How much more enjoyable some things were.

Can I get a witness this morning that it doesn't matter how much money the government gives us if they take away our rights? Comfort is not better than freedom! Comfort is temporary, shortsighted. Freedom is forever.

Who the Son sets free is free indeed. And when you follow Jesus to freedom, you leave some comforts behind. But I'd rather be free and eat a peanut butter sandwich than chained to a wall and eat a steak!

As the Israelites wandered in the desert, free from their captors, as they trusted the Lord, He provided for their needs. He gave them food from heaven....even during times of rebelling, complaining, even idolizing false gods...He was faithful to provide for their needs!

I know this time of the "stay at home" order has been rough in many ways. But have we turned to complaining, rebelling against God, idolizing other things. Or has this time been a time of reflecting on God's provision? His faithfulness?

Doesn't it draw you back to His commandments? Love God, love people. He'll take care of the rest! Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you!

What are the areas where you see God's faithfulness in your life? What can you teach the less mature people in your life?

Deuteronomy 11:6 (NKJV)

and what He did to Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, their households, their tents, and all the substance that was in their possession, in the midst of all Israel—

4. Protects His people

These men rebelled against Moses, who delivered God's commands to them and led the people to follow God. They didn't have the Holy Spirit so it was up to this one man to be the voice of God to the people.

As they came against him, God was quick to punish them.

There are lots of people who are against the church, Jesus' bride. But Jesus said that He would build His church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it.

Jesus is our protector. He loves His bride deeply and will do anything to protect her. He will destroy anyone who causes her harm.

We love because He first loved us. He continues to love us.

Deuteronomy 11:7 (NKJV)

but your eyes have seen every great act of the Lord which He did.

Miraculously intervenes in our lives...saves us!

Destroyed the enemy...to this day!

Provides for our needs...in the wilderness!

Protects His people...loves His bride.

God has showed us who He is! He has shown us His greatness! He is faithful!

Consider what you eyes have seen....every great act of the Lord!