

SM 062120

The Word of God - Love It, Learn It, and Live It - Father's Day 2020

Sunday Morning Message

Text – Deuteronomy 6:1 - 25

Congregational Reading – Deuteronomy 6:4 - 7

Introduction

In Deuteronomy six, we have Moses' instructions to the nation of Israel just prior to their crossing the Jordan River and entering into the Promised Land of Canaan after being delivered from slavery in Egypt for 400 years, and then wandering in the wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula for another forty. God is preparing his people for successful living in their new home. He does not want them to live like the very wicked people who had previously occupied the land. He wanted Israel to have the very best blessings on their lives. He wanted them to have good success. In order for God's people to have good success in life, they need to learn and live the Word of God. Joshua would remind them of this principle:

"Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." (Joshua 1:7-8)

David would also emphasize the importance of the Word of God:

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." (Psalm 1:1-6)

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul reminded his young son in the faith, Timothy, the importance of the Word of God:

"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which

are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

In our text, Moses is admonishing the fathers to teach the Word of God to their children so that they would be able to love God and live out his principles in front of a world that didn't know about God. Israel was to be a shining light to the rest of the world; a beacon of Truth. The world around them would see that there was a very prosperous people living in the land of Canaan that were mightily blessed of God.

As we examine this text, let us pay special attention to the emphasis on fathers leading the way in instructing their children.

Examine the Text – Fathers were given the awesome privilege to teach their children to:

I. Love God and His Word (vs. 1 – 5)

Fathers were to be good examples – they were to lead the way.

Notice the promises that are associated with loving God:

A. Prolonged Days (v.2)

Just being obedient to your parents will prolong your days:

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." (Ephesians 6:1-3)

Being obedient to God will also prolong your days.

B. Increase Mightily (v. 3)

This means many things:

1. They would increase in number.
2. They would increase in strength.
3. They would increase in wealth.

Dads were to lead the way in this by example. They were to love God themselves and they were to lead their children in loving the Lord.

Dads and Grand-dads – God is good – very good. Your job is to present an accurate picture of the importance of the Lord in your life. Make God look good to your children and grandchildren. Be excited about living for the Lord. Lead the way in loving God and loving His Word.

Your children can only love God if they:

II. Learn About God Through His Word (vs. 6 – 9)

Dads – Your job is to:

A. Know the Word of God Yourself (v. 6)

The phrase “in thine heart” means that you know the Book so well that you practically have it memorized. You are very familiar with it.

Illustrate – You become familiar with what you are interested in – i.e. hunting; football

Dads – how well do you know the Word of God. Do you read it, study it, meditate upon it, memorize it, come to the church to hear it preached and taught.

Your children are well of aware of how much emphasis you place on the Word of God – they are watching and they are following.

B. You Must Make Sure That Your Kids Learn the Word of God by:

1. Teaching it them yourself
2. Talking about it often – Look for ways to apply Bible principle to every area of life.
3. Taking them to church – every service (Illustrate – Lee Roberson - “three to thrive”)

Dad’s – Your responsibility is to flood your home and their lives with the Word of God. Make it interesting; make it fun.

III. Live for God in Obedience to His Word (vs. 10 – 25)

Obviously, the next logical step for us is to obey what we learn. If we love God, and we learn about God and what He wants us to do, we then need to obey Him.

Notice also in this section the constant emphasis on remembering. We don’t just learn the Bible once; we need to be constantly reminded of its truths.

Verse 16 – “Massah” was the place where they were out of water and they complained to God and even said that they were better off back in Egypt.

Conclusion

The end result of loving God, learning about God, and living for God is that you will be mightily blessed in this life, and rewarded for your faithfulness in eternity. Fathers who diligently teach their children about God will be greatly blessed in the knowledge that they have successfully passed down the faith and preserved it to the next generation.

John the Apostle said:

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." (3 John 1:4)

Illustrate – My wife and I receive a great deal of joy from our children. Though, we are now separated from three of our children by many miles, we are extremely blessed in the knowledge that they are all serving the Lord.

I thank God for my father also. He did not teach me the Bible in words, but he taught me a lot of godly principles through his life.

Dads, I want to encourage you to never give up trying to be a godly influence to your kids, no matter what you may have done in the past, and no matter how old your children are. As long as you have children, it is never too late for you to be a good dad – Loving God, learning about God and teaching him to your children, and then living out those godly principles in your life.

And, if you are a man and you do not have children of your own, you can be a godly influence to the children in this church a father figure of sorts. America needs more godly, male mentors and leaders. If America continues to go down, it will be attributed to the fact that the men were not being the examples that they needed to be to the children. They failed to love God, learn about God and live for Him.

Dads, we need to step up. We need to lead the way in our homes, in our churches, and in our communities. We. Need to be the godly example and influence that we need to be in order to preserve the faith to the next generation.

Closing Prayer

Illustration – Tonight we will be examine the tragic Father and Son tale of David and Absalom. Absalom breaks his father's heart by leading a rebellion against his father. When we look at David's life, we will see that though David was a great King, he failed his son as a father in that he was not the right example to him, and that he did not take the time that was necessary to teach him. How could he? He had many wives and perhaps dozens of children. The result was disaster.