

Gleanings of Grace

Deuteronomy 30

Lesson 5

Deuteronomy is primarily a set of messages, preached by Moses to the people of Israel shortly before his death and not long before the conquest of the land under Joshua's leadership. His efforts are directed toward convincing Israel of the benefits of obeying God and the consequences of disobeying Him, concluding with the admonition *choose life*. May you be challenged with the personal application of Moses' words.

OBSERVATION: Read Deuteronomy 30

1. Read Deuteronomy 30 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *LORD, Moses, and the people of Israel*.
Key Words: *LORD, Moses (I), people of Israel (you/your), heart/soul/love, obey/command/commandments/keep/walk, statutes/judgments, and turn/return*
3. The contrasting words *but* is used two times in Deuteronomy 30. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

Background:

1. Deuteronomy 30 is part of Moses' third speech to the people as recorded in Deuteronomy. It begins in chapter 29. Considering this is Moses' last speech to them before they enter the Promised Land, list some of the phrases or sentences that are reminders to you of:

Things we need to remember

God's faithfulness

God's warnings

- a. How might these words of Moses, given to God's people over 3,500 years ago, apply to your life today?

Read Deuteronomy 30:1-3

1. *Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse...* Record the words promised:

blessing from Deuteronomy 28:1-2:

curse from Deuteronomy 29:19,20:

- a. Considering these words, explain the importance of *obedience* to God.
2. Soak in the words of Deuteronomy 30:2. Rather than desiring to *curse* His people for their disobedience, what is God's focus?

- a. What attitude was God looking for from them?

- 1.) What do you think it looks like when we *return to the LORD...with all our heart and all our soul*?

b. Record your thoughts as you reflect upon the following verses:

Isaiah 55:7

Lamentations 3:32,40

1 John 1:9

3. Using Deuteronomy 30:3, list the three things God promised to Israel if they *returned to Him*.

a. Define the word *compassion*.

b. How would you explain this promise as it relates to the New Testament believer?

Read Deuteronomy 30:4-7

1. What is the promise to Israel in Deuteronomy 30:4-5?

a. As New Testament believers, we have not been literally *driven out to the farthest parts under heaven*. Thus, we are not looking forward to the LORD *gathering us back to the Promised Land*. However, when you disobey God, in what ways do you feel far from what He has for you?

2. What does God say He will do to the heart of one who *returns to Him*?

Challenge: Define the purpose of physical *circumcision* as first dictated to Abraham.

a. Read Colossians 2:11, the New Testament explanation of true *circumcision* as God promised in Deuteronomy 30:6. What do you think it means when God says He *circumcises the heart*?

- 1.) According to Deuteronomy 30:6, what is the result of a *circumcised heart*?

- 2.) The biggest change God makes in us is this new love that we have for Him. Explain this as you would to a new believer.

3. What is the promise of verse 7?
 - a. Again, as a New Testament believer, what do you think God might be promising to you?

 - b. Bask in the promise of Isaiah 54:17. What are your thoughts?

Read Deuteronomy 30:8-10

1. Fill in the blanks with the results of a *circumcised heart*. And _____ will _____ _____ the _____ of the _____.

2. Explain the change God makes in taking you from disobeying Him to wanting to *obey* Him.

3. Using Deuteronomy 30:8-10, list some of your favorite promises from the LORD that you can personally apply to your life.

4. *For the LORD will again rejoice over you for good...* Record the words of Jeremiah 32:41 and underline the words *with all My heart and with all My soul*.
 - a. God is not passive. He is fervent in all that He does. Those words should ring strongly in our soul. What does it mean to you that God does what He does for you with *all His heart and all His soul*?

5. Some promises of God are unconditional. He will perform them regardless of what we do. The promises of Deuteronomy 30:8-10 are conditional. According to Deuteronomy 30:10, what are the conditions?

Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20

1. There are times that we do not study the Word of God or we dismiss it using the excuse that it is too difficult to understand. What does God say to counter this thinking in verses 11-14?
 - a. Paul used these verses to counter those who would complicate the gospel. What did Paul write in Romans 10:6-10.

2. What are the commands of Deuteronomy 30:16?
 - a. Notice that God's commands are often accompanied with a blessing. What are the blessings you have discovered from your obedience to His commands?

3. Deuteronomy 30:17 begins with the contrasting word, *but*. What condition is God addressing in this verse?
 - a. What did Moses say would be the consequences of this *disobedience*? verse 18
 - 1.) Although we probably will not experience the curses to this extent, what are some of the consequences of *disobedience*?

4. According to verse 19, what was Moses *setting* before them?

5. Moses exhorted them to *choose life*. Complete the first section of verse 20.

that you may:

love _____

obey _____

cling _____

a. What does it personally mean to you to *cling to the LORD*?

6. *He is your life*. In what ways is God *your life*?

REVIEW: Read Deuteronomy 30

1. These words are amongst the last words of Moses to the people. He could have chosen many different words of exhortation. Yet, He chose these. What might your final words be to a group of people you have been discipling or shepherding?

2. What one thing from this lesson impacted you?

*Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever,
for they are the rejoicing of my heart.*

- Psalm 119:111

Observation Worksheet

Deuteronomy 30

"Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you,² and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul,³ that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you. ⁴If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. ⁵Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. ⁶And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. ⁷Also the LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. ⁸And you will again obey the voice of the LORD and do all His commandments which I command you today. ⁹The LORD your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the LORD will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers,¹⁰ if you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, and if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ¹¹"For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. ¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹³Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹⁴But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. ¹⁵"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil,¹⁶ in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them,¹⁸ I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;²⁰ that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."