

Facing Death--Moses, Jesus, and You

There is only one kind of a life that truly wins, and that is the one that places faith in the hands of the Savior. Until that is done, we are on an aimless course that runs in circles and goes nowhere. Material possessions, winning scores, and great reputations are meaningless in the eyes of the Lord, because He knows what we really are and that is all that matters - John Wooden

John 12:23-26 - But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

3 ways to benefit from Deuteronomy's final chapter:

I. By Comparing the Lives of Moses and Jesus

A. Similarities

1. Their meekness

Numbers 12:3 - Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.

Matthew 5:5 - Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Matthew 11:29 - Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

2. Their intimacy with the Father

Deuteronomy 34:10 - But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face,

Exodus 33:11 - So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.

John 17:20-21 - I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

3. Their mediatorial position

Deuteronomy 5:24-27 - And you said: 'Surely the Lord our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives. Now therefore, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the Lord our God anymore, then we shall die. For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? You go near and hear all that the Lord our God may say, and tell us all that the Lord our God says to you, and we will hear and do it.'

1 Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

4. Their patience with imperfect people

Deuteronomy 9:26 - Therefore I prayed to the Lord, and said: 'O Lord God, do not destroy Your people and Your inheritance whom You have redeemed through Your greatness, whom You have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand.'

John 11:33 - ..He groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,

5. Their revelation of God's Word

6. Their complete submission to the plan/purpose of God

Hebrews 11:24-26 - By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

Luke 22:42 - Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 - Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

B. Differences

Numbers 20:10 - *And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?"*

Numbers 20:12 - *Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."*

Luke 9:30-31 – *Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.*

Hebrews 4:15 - *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.*

II. By Comparing the Deaths of Moses and Jesus

A. Similarities

1. They died courageously because of their trust in the promises of God.

Deuteronomy 34:4 - *Then the Lord said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it."*

Hebrews 12:2 - *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

2. Their deaths brought tears to those who loved them.

Deuteronomy 34:8 - *The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.*

Luke 23:26-27 - *As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.*

3. Their deaths were not the end of their stories.

Luke 23:43 - Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

B. Differences

Deuteronomy 34:5 - So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord.

Matthew 27:46 - And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

2 Corinthians 5:21 - For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

III. By Embracing the Gearing Up Lessons from This Event

- A. Be sure that you are prepared to die.
- B. Let your growing intimacy with the Father result in increasing likeness to His Son.
- C. Understand that helping others prepare for death is one of the noblest tasks on earth.
- D. Rejoice in the life of the One who died for you.