

Love the Lord Your God

Deuteronomy 6:4-9



bible verse

COMMITTING TO MEMORY

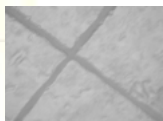
Ms

main street

May 30, 2010

Deuteronomy 6:5

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.



story lesson

BIBLE STORY

The book of Deuteronomy wraps up the *Torah* (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). Deuteronomy means “second giving of the law.” It’s kind of like the memoirs of Moses.

Imagine the great prophet Moses, who is around 120 years-old at this time, looking out over the nomadic people of God and thinking: “Wow! These people need some more grounding and reminding of who God is and what their mission is as the people of God. I better write some things down for them—warnings, encouragements, reminders, and things to point them continually toward the Lord.”

And so Moses puts to stone and tablet the “deuteronomic” history of the people of God up to this point. Moses does not highlight everything in the previous four books he has written, but chooses to wisely edit in order to inspire, teach, admonish, warn, and encourage.

The *Shema* is one of the cornerstones of Jewish life, even to this day. It is found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9:

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road,

when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

The *Shema* is considered the most important prayer in Judaism and is recited twice daily. It is a basic bedrock understanding of God and his special people, Israel.

Jesus summed up all the law and the prophets into an improvised *Shema*:

“Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:29-31).

Jesus reinterprets the Jewish *Shema* and makes it culturally universal, not just Jewish. As the New Israel, Christians, Christ-followers are called to follow the same principal as our forefathers in Judaism in loving the Lord our God as one with everything we are. In addition, the New covenanted people of God, followers of Jesus, are instructed to “love you neighbor as yourself.” In doing so, Jesus says, you fulfill the law of God (or God’s will on earth as it is in heaven).



life application

MAKING IT REAL

Loving God and loving people transcend our carnal, human concerns. Loving God and people greatly affect the realm of the spiritual. We may not always feel like it or understand it, nor do we often feel that people deserve love...

But that is not our call. In God’s kingdom and in his judgment is where things are made right (justice). We are instructed to love God and love people no matter what.

Doesn’t it feel good when someone loves you...especially when you know you don’t deserve it. In reality, no one really deserves love. We all deserve death. But God chose to love us even when we were still sinners... he sent his son Jesus to atone for our sins. Now that is real love.

Let’s try and practice the same kind of sacrificial love that God did and does. Try sometime to love someone who doesn’t deserve it. It feels amazing!!



questions

REMEMBERING

1. What are the first five books of the Bible called?

The *Torah*, or the Pentateuch

2. Name the first five books of the Bible?

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

3. What passage in Deuteronomy do the Israelite people regard as very important for everyday life?

The *Shema*

4. What were God's people, the Israelites, to love God with?

All their heart, soul and strength

5. On "what" were the Israelites supposed to put these commandments?

On their hearts

6. Who were the Israelites supposed to impress these commandments to?

Their children

7. When were the Israelites supposed to talk about these commandments?

When you sit at home and walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up

8. Where were these commandments to be "placed" in order to remind the Israelites of these important commandments?

On their hands and foreheads, on the doorframes of their houses and the gates of their cities

9. Who, in the New Testament, reiterated (repeated a newer version) of the Israelite *Shema*?

Jesus



coloring sheet

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