

Show Me Your Glory

Lessons from the Life of Moses

Lesson 18 Deuteronomy 11

Day One: God's School of Obedience

In Deuteronomy 11, God offers His people the choice of blessing and success by obeying Him, or the life of struggle and difficulty by disobeying Him. Here Moses addresses the issue of Israel's motivation because ultimately the quality of their life in the new land depends on their faithfulness to God.

Read Deuteronomy 11:1–32. Today's study will focus on verses 1–7.

"Therefore you shall love the Lord your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always." Verse 1 is a summary of the entire chapter with the emphasis placed on loving the Lord and obeying Him in all things. Behind Israel's entire history was the providence of God motivating His people to love Him devotedly. Moses exhorts the people to remember and learn from the past.

1. To whom was Moses making his passionate plea? vv. 2, 5

Those listening to Moses' words had personally experienced for themselves what he outlines in his address.

Look closer . . .

Are you ready for a challenge? Five times in these first seven verses Moses uses the phrase "what He did" (or its counterpart) in highlighting God's intervention on behalf of His people. Recalling what you learned from earlier lessons, use your own words to briefly recap *what He did* as stated in the following verses:

- v. 3: *His signs and His acts **which He did** in the midst of Egypt . . .*

- v. 4: ***What He did** to the army of Egypt . . .*

- v. 5: **What He did** for [them] in the wilderness . . .

- v. 6: **What He did** to Dathan and Abiram (Num. 16) . . .

In verse 7 Moses tells the people: “*Your eyes have seen every great act of the Lord which He did.*” Remembering what God had done for His people in the past is what would best motivate them to love and obey Him.

2. Personal: The Hebrew meaning of the phrase *love the Lord* means to deliberately choose Him for your most personal relationship and then to express that choice in terms of obeying His revealed will for your daily life. Have *you* intentionally made the choice to love and follow Him in every area of your life? If not, why are you holding back?

Selah . . .

The best motivation to obey God is a good memory of what He’s done for *you*. Take a moment now to recap some of His mighty acts on *your* behalf.

Heartbeat . . . “*If you love Me, keep My commandments.*” John 14:15

Day Two: Be Careful

Read Deuteronomy 11:1–17. Today’s study will focus on verses 8–17.

The ability of the Israelites to live long in the land of Canaan and conquer their enemies was dependent upon their willingness to obey God. Their strength to go in and possess the land was directly proportionate to their obedience.

1. What is God’s desire for His people? vv. 8–9

2. Describe the land the Israelites were entering . . .
 - a. v. 9
 - b. v. 11
 - c. v. 12
3. By contrast, what was the new land *unlike*? v. 10

The citizens of Egypt had to depend on the development of man-made irrigation to water their crops, but in the land of Canaan God's people had to depend on Him—the Giver of rain—to sustain themselves.

4. What was the determining factor in how successful their crops would become?
vv. 13–15

God promised to bless the obedience of His people: *"I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil"* (v. 14). The people could certainly count on God's faithfulness, but could He count on theirs?

5. What is the warning in taking God's blessings for granted? vv. 16–17
 - a. If God's people neglected their worship of Him and turned to other gods, what would happen to them?

Selah . . .

Have you perhaps taken God's blessings for granted? Have you been inattentive or neglectful of your worship of Him? In what way have you noticed Him withholding His blessing from your life? Please explain.

- ❖ The remedy for what you need is found in Hosea 6:3 and 10:12. Take some time to meditate on these verses. What is God speaking to your heart?

Not only would God's people have longevity in the land, they would also have successful conquests.

2. In return for their love and obedience, what does God promise His people here in Deuteronomy 11?
 - a. v. 23

 - b. v. 24

 - c. v. 25

3. Personal: Obedience to God's commands for your life is an expression of your love for Him. Look again at this week's memory verse from Day One. In what way are you currently expressing your love by obeying Him?

Review this week's memory verse.

Day Four:

Two Options

Read Deuteronomy 11:26–32 along with Deuteronomy 27.

In the closing verses of chapter 11, once again Moses emphasizes that the outcome for Israel depends upon her obedience to the Lord.

1. Moses puts forth two options to the people; what are they? vv. 26–28

Israel was about to cross over the Jordan River and enter the land. Once there, Joshua would gather the tribes on two mountains to hear the blessings and curses read to the people. These mountains stood about three thousand feet in height and opposite one another. Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin would stand on Mt. Gerizim to bless the people; and Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali would stand on Mt. Ebal to curse those who disobeyed. This amazing scene would afford the people the opportunity to rejoice together as they began to take possession of the land and to remember their responsibility in their covenant relationship with God. It would be a sobering moment that would drive home to each heart the challenge to make the right choices!

In a covenant relationship with God, daily there is the potential for successes and failures. With that comes the option to choose how we will handle any given situation: will we obey and receive a blessing or will we disobey and reap the consequence? It has been said, *you don't get to choose your circumstances; but you do get to choose how you will handle your circumstances.*

If you could recognize it going in, as a believer you most likely would not opt for disobeying God; but usually it happens gradually over time. It starts with one simple decision and then digresses downward—away from God—until, before you know it, you are deep in sin. It might help our understanding to examine what Scripture has to say about the path of disobedience and the way of obedience.

2. Turn to James 1 and chart the downward spiral of disobedience found in verses 13–16. Write down in your own words what each one has to say.
 - a. v. 13

 - b. v. 14

 - c. v. 15

 - d. v. 16

Who in their right mind would choose death over life? No one! But once we allow ourselves to become deceived, then we begin to think we may know better than God, and that line of thought will lead to trouble every time.

3. Now look at the way of obedience in the following verses. Think about your answers as you go along and how this applies to you right now.
 - a. From where must the motive to *obey* originate? Romans 6:17

 - b. Who is working in you and why? Philippians 2:13

 - c. Who is aiding you through the process of obeying God? 1 Peter 1:22a

4. What does Romans 6:16 say about *your two options*?

❖ Since the *choice* is *yours*, is God pleased or displeased with you today?

Review this week's memory verse.

Day Five:

Praying with Purpose

Selah . . . Be still and consider how to *work out* in your daily life what God has *worked into* your heart through your study of His Word. Then pray each aspect through.

❖ **A Point Pondered:** Is there an example from the lesson or a truth from Scripture that has taken on a new meaning this week? Please note it below.

❖ **A Path Pursued:** Knowledge must be applied in order to make a difference. Name one thing you can act upon in obedience to the Holy Spirit's leading.

❖ **A Promise Possessed:** If God has spoken a particular verse or word of hope to your heart, write it down and pray it back to Him.

❖ **A Praise Proclaimed:** God loves to hear you praise Him! What aspect of God's character particularly blessed you this week? Will you praise Him today?

❖ **A Prayer Presented:** Write out the most pressing request on your heart and lift it to the Lord.

Other requests:

Notes