

That You May Live

Deuteronomy 32:44-52

June 14, 2009

Intro

Moses has just finished giving his fourth message to the people of Israel. He is preparing them to enter into the land which God promised. He has gone over the Law of God again with them so they understand God's best for them. But one of the most important things he has done throughout this book is to call them to a place of spiritual revival.

He also told Israel that when they crossed over the Jordan River into the land of promise, they needed to go to the valley of Shechem. That was to become a valley of decision. For from Mount Ebal on one side they were to call out the adversities and difficulties that were to come into their lives if they did not follow the words of God. Then, from Mount Gerizim on the other side of the valley, they were to have them call out the blessings of God. These are the blessings that would come into their nation if they would choose to follow God with all their heart with all their soul.

However, God took Moses aside and told him that the people of Israel would follow after the gods of the world and forsake the covenant God made with them. God then told Moses to write out the words of a song that Israel must learn so that when the day of adversity and trouble came, then they would know the reason for their troubles and perhaps they would turn their hearts again back to living God.

So Moses did what God had asked of him and taught Israel the words of that song. When he had finished speaking all these words to Israel, he then challenged them one last time and that final challenge is where we are studying today.

I. Take to Your Heart All These Words

- 1 Moses begins his admonition by telling them that they must take these words to their heart.
- 2 Moses has been told by God what will happen. He knows that they will follow away, so he strongly challenges them that they must take these words to their heart.

A. God's Word is powerful

- 3 Words are powerful unto themselves. Words can hurt and tear down or words can build up and edify. A wise man will learn to choose his words very carefully.

Illus – You will learn how important words are the first time your wife asks you if you like that dress.

- 4 James gave strong admonition about being careful with what we say; with how we use our words.

James 3:8-10, But no one can tame the tongue...with it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

- 5 But God's Word is the power of life and death. That is why Moses is giving them this admonition. This is the key to their revival. This is the key to keeping them from becoming spiritually shipwrecked.

Hebrews 4:12, For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- 6 God sends His Word to accomplish His purpose.

Isaiah 55:11, So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

B. The heart is the key

- 1 Moses said in verse 46, "Take these words into your heart." Moses knows that if they do not do this, there simply is no hope for them. This is the key to their spiritual revival. This is the key to their success, to their prosperity; to their receiving the blessings God has in store for them.
- 2 Jesus made reference to this when he spoke about the condition of the heart.

Luke 6:45, "The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart."

Proverbs 23:7 "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

- 3 Since this is true, that the mouth speaks from that which fills the heart, then we should be very concerned about what fills the heart.
- 4 Jeremiah gave us a powerful example when he wrote....

Jeremiah 15:16, "Your words were found and I ate them, and your words became for me a joy and a delight of my heart; for I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of Hosts."

5 Paul gave us great insight when he gave us the key to how we get faith.

Romans 10:17, So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

6 We also that the heart is the key to spiritual victory...

Psalms 119:11, Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You.

7 The heart, then, is the key. What we pour into our hearts will determine what comes out of our lives!

Illus – There are so many ways we can have inputs today. We have technology to help us either fill our heart with what leads us away from God, or with what leads us toward God.

8 **A.W. Tozer** once said, “We are becoming what we love. We are to a large degree the sum of our loves; and we will of moral necessity grow into the image of what we love most; for love is among other things a creative affinity; it changes and molds and shapes and transforms.”

9 Therefore, Moses knew the importance of loving God with all our heart and with all our soul.

II. This is No Empty Word

- 1 When Moses said in verse 47, “This is not an idle word for you,” it seems to suggest that there were men in his time that perhaps did think these words were empty, idle words.
- 2 However, there were many obvious examples that God’s words were filled with power.
- 3 If they followed God’s Word, they prospered and saw the strong hand of God’s blessing on them.
- 4 If they followed after idols and turned their hearts away from God, they saw famine, troubles, and the presence of conquering armies.

A. This world has many empty things

- 1 The promises of the world are empty

Illus – I remember growing up seeing the Marlboro Man looking so rugged and manly. But then I heard my dad coughing every morning and I knew it was a lie.

- 2 The world promises to satisfy, but it never does.

- 3 If you just have the right toys and go to the right parties and have the funnest friends, then your life will have meaning and your heart always full. These are empty words.

Ecclesiastes 5:10, He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity.

- 4 Religion can be empty. If a man believes that he will receive a blessing simply by going through a ritual or saying certain words in a specific order, then he will find that that religion is empty.
- 5 Religious words spoken by a man with an empty heart are as effective as a magician saying, “Abracadabra,” before placing his hand into his hat.

2 Timothy 3:5, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these.

B. This is the substance of godly change

- 6 It’s interesting that in Moses’ last message he gives to Israel, he speaks a blessing to each of the tribes of Israel as Jacob did just before he died.
- 7 In that last message, he made a great declaration that we should also receive for ourselves.

Deuteronomy 33:27, “The eternal God is a dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.”

- 8 What powerful words for us to understand. God is a dwelling place. That is the key to godly change; that is the key to revival; that we would understand how important it is we have God as our dwelling place.
- 9 Moses, in that same verse, also said, “Underneath are the everlasting arms.”
- 10 You may be pressed down, weighted down, burdened down; but it is there you will find the everlasting arms of God.

Jude 1:24, Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy.

- 11 Paul gave a great insight in the substance of our faith when he wrote...

1 Corinthians 2:9, But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

C. This is your life

- 12 This is not an idle word for you, Moses said. “This is your life.”
- 13 This is no small matter, in other words, this is everything to you. To not understand this is devastating.
- 14 This is not an empty thing; these are words of life. There is a substance and a reality of Christ in our hearts that changes lives. It has the power to save eternally and change us now!

Illus – When Zaccheus had an encounter with Jesus, he was transformed!

Luke 19:8, Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”

- 1 The story of Calvary Chapel is a story of lives that have been changed. These are no empty words that God has given for we have seen the touch of the Holy Spirit changing those who were hopelessly lost into those who are filled with the Spirit of life.