



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 12, Day 1 --- Deuteronomy 24-27

Week 12, Day 2 --- Deuteronomy 28-29

Week 12, Day 3 --- Deuteronomy 30-31

Week 12, Day 4 --- Deuteronomy 32-34 - Psalm 91

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Day 1 – Deuteronomy 24-27

Justice is a consistent theme throughout the Old Testament. Justice basically means making things right. In chapter 24 we get a glimpse at what that looks like. The situation in Israel was much like many places in the world today. People struggled each day to earn enough to buy food for that day. Many people, especially orphans and widows, had only one set of clothes and probably went hungry often. To be an orphan or widow was to be without a family. Where the family was absent, the community was to step in and help. As you continue to read watch what happens in Israel and how God responds.

Children were incredibly important. The expectation was that everyone married and had children. God's instruction here sounds very strange because it could end up with a man having more than one wife. However, it was normal for the oldest brother to get married first. There was no birth control, so normally the new family would have children before the second son married.

Moses concludes this section with instructions on how the Israelites are to remember what he has just told them. Every year they are to make a special offering. However, it isn't just the offering that is significant. They are to repeat the story of how they got to where they are so that they never forget that they are God's chosen people.

- Who cares for the foreigners, the orphans, and the widows in our country?

Day 2 – Deuteronomy 28-29

Moses begins by listing in detail all the things that God promises to provide for the Israelites as long as they are faithful to Him. This is a very clear promise of physical blessing. God doesn't promise to make the people wealthy in the way we think about wealth. He does promise to provide the people with an abundance. They will have no reason for discontent. However, there is a choice. The people can desire more than God provides and seek after it by worshiping other gods. The result will be that they will lose all they have. These are not chapters for children to read. The descriptions of what will happen to the people are gruesome. Unfortunately, they also come true.

This section includes a variety of blessings and curses. Both meant something at this time. Words had power and I think they still do, but we don't act like they do. God makes the choice for the Israelites very clear. He is a good parent and will follow through on what He says.

There is one statement that might be hard to accept.

Deuteronomy 28:63 (NIV) Just as it pleased the LORD to make you prosper and increase in number, so it will please him to ruin and destroy you.

Maybe you had a car that was really special to you. You loved that car, but one day it got really dirty. In fact, you went through some road work and it got some asphalt stuck on it. Now what are you going to do? If you don't do anything the car will get dirtier and dirtier and you'll never enjoy it the same way again. It needs to be cleaned. The cleaning will be hard work and if the surface of the car could feel it wouldn't feel very good when you were scrubbing off the asphalt. However, the result will be good for the car and you will enjoy the process because you know what the result will be. God promises that if the Israelites allow themselves to get dirty that He will take great pleasure in cleaning them up. This is a good thing.

- Did your parents follow through on what they said?
- What impact does saying one thing and doing another have on your relationship with someone?

Day 3 – Deuteronomy 30-31

Good news, bad news, and then good news. I think the promise of restoration in chapter 30 is the one that should give us the most hope. God knows that they people will turn away from Him. They will ask Him to leave and things will go very bad. However, no matter how bad they get God promises that the people can always return. Maybe this is why the descriptions in the previous chapters are so gruesome. God wants the people to know that He has already anticipated their evil and is ready to forgive and restore.

We think it is God's presence that is terrifying and we are wrong. As Christians we are promised that God will be present with us always. It is when God's removes His presence that evil takes over and evil destroys. God knows how rebellious the people are and He clearly warns them. He also makes certain they know who their new leader will be to avoid any unrest when Moses dies.

The song that God asks Moses to write in in tomorrow's reading.

- Are you experiencing blessings or curses in your life right now?
- What do you need to do to experience God's presence and blessings?

Day 4 – Deuteronomy 32-34 - Psalm 91

Have you ever heard a song like the one in chapter 32? There are several things in this song that are consistent themes all through the Bible. God is the creator. We owe our very existence to Him and because He created us we have a purpose. God is powerful. Nothing can stand against God, not anything in the physical world and not anything in the spiritual world. God is a holy and jealous God. God is a loving father who loves His children. He will destroy anything that threatens to turn His children away from Him.

Moses then blesses all the tribes. There is a special blessing for his own tribe. After the blessings are completed Moses and God once again spend some special time alone together before Moses leaves the earth to live with God forever. We know this is where Moses is because Moses comes to visit with Jesus when Jesus is on earth.

Psalm 91 is a shortened and positive version of the song that Moses instructed the people to sing. The devil quotes this song to Jesus when he tempts Him to jump off the temple. The devil twisted the meaning, but it is a wonderful song of hope and security.

- As you read through the blessings which tribe would you have wanted to be born into?
- How would Moses describe your tribe, the family and community you grew up in?

Day 5 – Joshua 1-4

The words “be strong and very courageous” are repeated over and over to Joshua. God would perform miracles and He was certainly on Israel’s side. However, He would not hand the land over to them without effort. Joshua will face many challenges and he will need to be both strong and courageous to succeed. God establishes Joshua as the leader with the crossing of the Jordan. What happens is all due to God’s power, but it is Joshua who gets the credit in the eyes of the people.

There are a number of famous women in Jesus’ ancestry and you meet one of them in today’s reading. (see Matthew 1 if you want to see her name in the list of Jesus’ ancestors) She is a prostitute and a very effective liar, but she does have one incredible redeeming quality. She recognizes who God is and decides very quickly that He can save her and her whole family. This time the spies have a very different experience.

When the Israelites left Egypt they crossed through the Red Sea. They had little faith and God parted the waters before they entered into the Sea. Their faith has grown and God asks them to step into the water believing that it will part for them. This is how faith works. If you say I’ll believe in God when He does this you will probably be disappointed. If God says to do something and you do it in faith, you’ll constantly be amazed.

The Israelites didn’t have cameras so that they could take pictures of everyone crossing through the Jordan on dry land. Instead they created a pile of stones as a reminder to them and to future generations of God’s power and faithfulness.

- What establishes someone as a leader?
- What did your family do to help you remember important things in the past?
- What are you dealing with that calls for faith, strength, and courage?

Day 6 – Joshua 5-8

Now the action really begins and it begins with a very strange story. The Israelites have their backs to the river. They are in a very vulnerable position. God tells them to disable their army for several days by having all the men circumcised. This requires great trust because the men will be in great pain and unable to fight for several days. At the end of the time the people celebrate the Passover with produce from the land they are beginning to occupy.

Jericho is captured just the way God says, but in a way that only God can receive the glory. Sieges were common in this time. The walls of a town prevented a foreign army from entering the city. Generally, the city had supplies that would enable it to survive for a year or more. The common method for

defeating a walled town was either to wait a very long time or to build ramps of dirt that would allow the army to scale the walls. God didn't do either. He simply made the walls fall down.

The story of Achan teaches the dangers of partial obedience. God desires holiness or purity. When the people obey and follow God's instruction in dealing with Achan they are once again victorious. The reward for their obedience is that they get to keep the spoils of Ai.

- Why do you think complete obedience is so important to God?
- Why didn't Achan obey?
- Why did Achan hide what he had taken?

Day 7 – Joshua 9-11

What is the first thing everyone should do when confronted with a significant decision? For the wrong answer look closely at Joshua 9:14 and what happens. It is really very simple. When the people ignore God they suffer. Whenever they seek God's help He provides and they are blessed. It seems so simple. Why didn't they learn and increasingly seek God's help? Why don't we ask for God's help more often? In spite of everything, the Israelites succeed in conquering the land.

- How would your life be different if you had asked for God's direction when you had big life choices to make?