

Deuteronomy 12-26

“Remember your Law”

Introduction.

- Tonight we are going to continue our study in the book of Deuteronomy.
 - **The word Deuteronomy literally means “the second law.”**
- And that is what Deuteronomy is – it is Moses repeating to the children of Israel everything they have heard before.

But before you let that scare you remember even though they had heard this all before, this was a new generation.

- It is done differently.
 - When the law is given in Exodus and Leviticus and even into Numbers – it is given with great detail to help out the elders who were helping Moses make judgments and it was for the Levities so they understood how many bulls to offer for this sin offering or burnt offering.
- This time when Moses reiterates the law he doesn't repeat all that detail, because this time it is for the people – Moses adds emphasis and encouragement as the Lord sees fit.

And because of that, this second law, the book of Deuteronomy is one of the most quoted books in the New Testament.

- It is third on the list in fact behind Psalms and Isaiah, which were pretty important books.
 - Jesus quotes from the book of Deuteronomy over and over again and uses it exclusively to fight the temptation of Satan in the wilderness.

So the book of Deuteronomy is important.

- And we are studying it at the same exact speed at which it was originally given.
 - **The book of Deuteronomy is five sermons of Moses given over a period of 37 days.**

And we are looking at this book, over 5 Wednesday Nights over a period of 35 days.

- One sermon of Moses each Wednesday Night, over five weeks.

The outline for the book we are following correlates with each of Moses five sermons each with a different emphasis of remembering.

- Moses wanted them to remember certain things before they went into the Promised Land.

The Book of Deuteronomy – 5 Sermons

#1 - Remember your History – Chapters 1-4

#2 - Remember your God– Chapters 5-11

#3 - Remember your Law– Chapters 12-26

#4 - Remember your Covenant– Chapters 27-30

#5 - Remember your Leader– Chapters 31-34

Now each of these sermons of Moses is pretty easy to fit into one Wednesday Night until tonight.

- Old man Moses with his third sermon before he was taken home and the children of Israel crossed over.
 - It was one of those that all of us pastors end up preaching on occasionally – we have so much to say, we understand the importance.
 - But from your perspective we go on and on and on.
- Moses third sermon would have been one of those that you would have been tempted to look at your watch.

- I mean just to read the text of Moses third sermon would take about 45 minutes.

➤ So here is how we are going to tackle this tonight.

The Third Sermon of Moses in the book of Deuteronomy was meant to help the children of Israel remember their law.

- Mostly consisting of the Law of Moses.
 - And what I mean by that is there is the Law of God or the 10 Commandments - given by God on Mount Sinai in 70 different languages that the early Jewish commentators recorded.
 - God was saying – this is for all people at all times.
- Then there was the law of Moses, though it is wise in its dietary laws, and through it is fair in the way it deals with crime, and insightful especially when compared with laws written at similar times like the code of Hammurabi.
 - There is much of the Law of Moses that applies to the Jewish people in their time.
 - What do I mean by that?

I mean that we don't live in ancient Israel, so although I think the way God handled crime in the past is wise, does not mean that the United States is going to adopt it.

- Even though it would most likely be better for our bodies to not eat pork or shell fish, I think at least some of that had to do with the way food was prepared in that day, God was sparing them from diseases we are now aware of and know how to cook out of our food.
 - At least that is what I tell myself because I love bacon and shrimp so much. And things like don't mix linen and wool in a garment were meant to give ancient Israel a picture of the fact that God doesn't want us to mix as God's kids with the things of the world – we have the Holy Spirit to convict us, we don't need pictures.

All that said I personally love to study the Law of Moses.

- And I think it is of the utmost importance if you want to grow in your knowledge of the word that you do like I do to prepare for these studies, read through these chapters slowly.
 - All that said, tonight my heart is just to give you a bird's eye view of these chapters.
- We will focus in on some key points, read a few key verses but basically I think as you read through these chapters what you really come away with is Moses as he reiterates the Law – He seems to break it up into 10 different parts or sections.
 - Those 10 different parts or sections are what we will focus on for a few minutes for each of the sections tonight.
 - In overview they are...

Remember Your Law – Deuteronomy 12-26

Laws Concerning...

#1 – Worship – 12:1-14:2

#2 – Diet – 14:3-21

#3 – Giving and Debt – 14:22-15:23, chapter 26

#4 – Festivals – 16:1-22

#5 – Judges, Kings, Priests, Prophets -17:1-18:22

#6 – Cities of Refuge – 19:1-21

#7 – Battle – 20:1-20

#8 – Regulating Common Practices – 21:1-22:30

#9 – Purity and Cleanliness – 23:1-25

#10 – Social Issues – 24:1-25:19

- So let's take a quick look at each of those, starting with...

Remember Your Law – Deuteronomy 12-26

Laws Concerning....

#1 – Worship – 12:1-14:2

- read 12:1-11

As Moses introduces in the first few verses of chapter 12 and then continues on into the first couple of verses of chapter 14, God was concerned with the way they worshiped.

- The first thing we notice is they were not to mix with the worship culture of Canaan.
 - They were not to learn and study about the way they worshiped.
 - They were not to adapt some of the best of their worship practices.
 - They were to destroy those places of worship.

And I point that out to you because in our culture there is a real craze to combine some of the “good things” from various religions and come up with our own thing.

- Our kids are being tricked in community college to believe that all religions basically are the same and so the idea that there is only one way to God is really archaic.
 - So co-exist is the mantra.

But please hear me on this what might be the heart of your junior college professor is not the heart of God.

- God says, I don't even want you to explore the way they worship and I think the reason for that is God knows that these pagan religions appeal to the flesh.
 - Because there is no commitment to destroy the flesh, you indulge the flesh.
 - Worship requires very little of you.
 - So it is appealing.
- And our Father in heaven knows this and says – don't get anywhere near it kids – it will suck you in.

The next thing to notice from these chapters is that God tells them that not only were they not to adopt the Canaanite worship practices but they also were not to do their own thing in their own place – God says come to the place I will show you.

It is a prophecy of Jerusalem.

- Where all the people were required to come and worship in the way God wanted them to worship, not the way they wanted to worship.
 - And this coming to Jerusalem to worship produced two things that were important.

#1 – They had to come together to worship.

- It is not just the modern church that has discovered the value of community – Heavenly father knew long before the importance of coming together as believers, He knew the importance of fellowship.
 - We come to this place and as iron sharpens iron, so does one man sharpen another.
 - It is why we are told in the New Testament...

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” – Hebrews 10:24-25

- We need each other in the body of Christ and this has always been the way it has been.
 - Come to Jerusalem, because you need fellowship and.

#2 – God didn't want them worshipping Him in their way, but His way.

- We say well this is way I worship God and the problem with that is we so often get that idea from the world.

- For some of you worship is to sit, listen to the worship, study and then you criticize – oh the song choice, why does he overview, I would prefer that we took a year to go through Deuteronomy one chapter a time – this is how I worship – God says don't.

Some of you have learned how to worship not from Jazz critics but from Rock concerts.

- The Lord is awesome, turn it up, I like you Pastor Jason because you are dynamic – this is real Bible study and worship.
 - But so often we come to these conclusions because it is how we feel about worship or what we have observed in the world.
- But the reality is God wants us to come to Him – we learn about worship from Him.

John chapter 4 says, **“God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.” – John 4:24**

It is not that I get to decide how I am going to worship God; I come to His Word and hear how He desires to be worshiped.

- In Spirit – emotions engaged.
- In truth – with the truth of God's Word.
 - It is why we design our services the way we do – we worship in song to worship in Spirit and we give time to the teaching of God's Word to worship in truth.

One last thing on the subject of worship and that is in the first few verses of chapter 14 we are encouraged not to get tattoos or trim the edges of your beard.

- And though many a parent have used these verses to exhort their kids not to get tattooed, really what is happening is we are still talking about worship.
 - God wanted His people to avoid tattoos and cuttings because they were again part of the Canaanite worship practices.
- So it comes down to why get a tattoo – if it's to open a door to share the gospel – great. (Understand other doors will close, they would have for me in Texas)

If it is to be like the world then no – but because you like it, because you want to glorify the Lord, then okay according the scriptures.

- Just realize its permanent.
 - My grandpa had a jaguar and his name Don, but by the time I saw them it looked like a wiener dog and a bruise.

Remember Your Law – Deuteronomy 12-26

Laws Concerning...

#1 – Worship – 12:1-14:2

#2 – Diet – 14:3-21

- Read 14:3-21 – making comments as you read.

God had a very specific dietary law for His people and again as I said before I think some of this was because God knew, God knew pork and shell fish had the potential to make you very sick if not cooked properly – God says I will spare you.

- So He tells them to not eat anything that does not chew the cud, this process of digesting the food over and over again.
 - And it had to have a cloven hoof – a hoof raised above the ground.
- Now they didn't know this in their day, but in our day we know – an animal that digests its food over and over again is easier for human's to digest.
 - We know that animals with paws are more susceptible to parasites getting into their bodies.
 - But God knew it long before us and simply takes those things off the menu.

Now spiritually I think it is significant that the Jewish person before they would put something into their bodies they would have to consider – is it worthy to bring up over and over again and is it raised above the world – Is what I am putting in my body worthy to meditate on, it is raised above the world or of the world – we should consider the same.

Remember Your Law – Deuteronomy 12-26

Laws Concerning....

#1 – Worship – 12:1-14:2

#2 – Diet – 14:3-21

#3 – Giving and Debt – 14:22-15:23, 26

- We will not read anything from these chapters if you want to grow in your knowledge of tithing I encourage you to dig in.
 - What you will find is sometimes we say – I don't have to tithe because that is part of the law.

Well the law required the Jews to give up to 43 percent of their income in tithe, and every third year they would give even more - so you should be thankful we don't give according to the law.

- But before the law, in the book of Genesis, Abraham gave Melchizedek 10 percent of his income as an offering to the Lord, which predates the law.
 - And in the New Testament in I Corinthians chapter 16:2 – Paul says we should lay aside something and he makes the point that it should be in some way related to a percentage of our income – “as he may prosper.”
- So giving to the Lord is something we are not to do as serious believers haphazardly – we are to pray it through, Lord what part of my income do you want me to give, and then we are to do it cheerfully.
 - And when you consider chapter 26 of Deuteronomy, you see why.
 - Because God has been so good to us.
- It is not that God has saved you and now He wants your money.
 - It is that He has brought you into a good land, done great things – and we respond by giving to Him as an act of worship! – It is a joy and privilege to give to God and partner with Him.

Remember Your Law – Deuteronomy 12-26

Laws Concerning....

#1 – Worship – 12:1-14:2

#2 – Diet – 14:3-21

#3 – Giving and Debt – 14:22-15:23, 26

#4 – Festivals – 16:1-22

- In chapter 16, which I will also leave you to read on your own, Moses overviews the feasts and festivals the Jews were to participate in.
 - We spend two whole Wednesday Nights going over the 7 Feasts of the Lord and we took so much time because I knew it would come up over and over again in the scriptures and because prophetically these feasts are real important – so you can listen to that online.

The main point of chapter 16 is three times a year Jewish men were required to come to Jerusalem and worship.

- The first time was in the spring during the Feast of Unleavened bread, this 8-day feast also included the Feast of Passover and First Fruits - so it was 3 in one.
 - Now it was during this week Jesus was in Jerusalem that we just finished studying in the book of Mark.
- The second time was 50 days after Passover at the Feast of Pentecost.
 - Of course it was during this feast that the Holy Spirit came down as the early church gathered in the upper room.
- The final Feast that God required Jewish men to come to Jerusalem was the Feast of Tabernacles.

- Another 8 day Feast this time in the fall – where they would camp outside for 7 days, the people would daily go the pool of Siloam – and when Jesus said, “If any man thirsts...”

Remember Your Law – Deuteronomy 12-26

Laws Concerning....

#1 – Worship – 12:1-14:2

#2 – Diet – 14:3-21

#3 – Giving and Debt – 14:22-15:23, 26

#4 – Festivals – 16:1-22

#5 – Judges, Kings, Priests, Prophets -17:1-18:22

- In chapters 17 and 18 God is giving laws for those in leadership of the nation of Israel.
 - Their judges, their eventual Kings, their priests and prophets.

In the first section dealing with the judges over Israel God establishes things like in order to convict a man there has to be two or three witnesses.

- This was to avoid just one person making something up about someone he didn't like.
 - Those witnesses also had to participate in the punishment of the convicted criminal – this way again you really thought through if the person on trial was really someone worthy of punishment.

God was also to make sure there were no taking of bribes, because this makes the system of justice unfair.

- I remember when I used to work for a golf course, the system they had was you had to call in after 5pm seven days before the tee time you wanted.
 - Well I will never forget the first time it was my job to answer those phones. I opened the book to a week from that moment and I picked up the phone and the person asks if he was too late to get an 8am tee time next week.

No, I told him you are the first caller and as I went to write down his reservation I found all the time times already crossed off – ah – the first opening I have is 10am – 10am? – I thought I was the first caller? – Yeah I don't know – I came to find out those times were reserved because the people would pay off a manager – but that isn't fair – now that's one thing for a golf tee time but you see how terrible it would be if your life was on the line.

So God lays out the rules for Judges and then God lies down rules for their future Kings.

- Look with me and lets read a little bit from chapter 17:14-20.

God says someday you are going to ask me for a King, and I will give you a King, but you must let me raise up one for you, not a foreigner.

- And as far as this king of yours, there are some rules he is supposed to follow.
 - He is not supposed to multiple three things for himself – horses, wives and money.
 - Why these three things?

The multiplying of horses would make a king dependent on his army instead of the Lord.

- God was saying I want you to depend on me, not on your army to defend you.

The multiplying of women besides the fact it was just really giving into the lusts of your flesh, it would turn the Kings heart away from the Lord.

- We see this in the extreme example of Solomon – He had over a 1,000 wives and concubines and he built for them areas to worship their own gods and maybe it started with him just trying to be an understanding husband, but then the people started to worship at these pagan temples and eventually Solomon's heart and the people's heart were turned.
 - We see in this that although the Bible records that people who loved God had multiple wives, the Bible never commands or commended the practice.

- God knew it was again an outlet for the flesh and that it would cause problems in the family unit – God has always been against the practice.

Finally the multiplying of money would have the same effect, as the multiplying of horses and women, the Kings heart would turn from trusting in the Lord to trusting in his stuff.

- Jesus said it best in the Sermon on the Mount.

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” – Matthew 6:24

- Our hearts can only have one master and if it is anything other than the Lord, you are going to face issues.
 - At the core of our sin is a worship problem – I know it can be a lust problem or bitterness problem or substance abuse problem, but at the core it is a worship problem.
 - I need to make sure it is Him that captivates my heart, that it is Him that I worship – and every other thing – He will deal with as I worship Him.

To help the Kings keep this in their minds they were suppose to make their own copy of the law.

- If they had actually done this, to write out Genesis to Deuteronomy or at least the portion of the Law from Exodus 20 – Leviticus – to really have a grasp of what God wanted them to do, how different would the leaders of Israel have turned out?
 - Next week we are going to look at some groups similar in age to the Hebrew people and what has happened to them and what happened to the Jews is so interesting, but we will have to save that for next week.
 - Sufficient to say tonight – is how blessed will you be if you read and study and keep God’s word and if you don’t, you won’t.

God also in this section instructs the priests that they were to divide up into 24 groups or courses and each course would serve for 2 weeks in the temple that would someday be in Jerusalem.

Now eventually these courses would be given specific dates and this plays huge in the New Testament when we read in Luke 1:5 that John the Baptist’s father was ministering in the course of Abijah.

- That was one of the two week periods established by the law of Moses - eventually this was given a date of early June and by this understanding we can approximate the birth date of John the Baptist and also maybe even Jesus.
 - But that is a study for another time.

Speaking of Jesus though, I want to draw your attention to chapter 18 verses 15 through the end of the chapter.

- God says one day in the future I am going to rise up a Prophet, capital P, and He, capital H will have my words.
 - This is why when they are asking John the Baptist are you Elijah (who was suppose to come before the Messiah) or the Prophet (who was suppose to be the Messiah) and John of course answered no to each of those things – but this is where that prophecy came from.

God says I am going to rise up the prophet but then notice He says, you need to listen to Him.

- Now I bet some who were listening were thinking, why does God need to say that, who would not listen to the Prophet God sent into this world?
 - And if the Lord was sarcastic like me He would have responded, “I don’t know, I’m sure all of you guys will listen, but just incase, here is my Word.”

- And then He tells them, you shouldn't listen to prophets whose prophecies don't come true – who would do that – just listen to my Word.

Remember Your Law – Deuteronomy 12-26

Laws Concerning....

#1 – Worship – 12:1-14:2

#2 – Diet – 14:3-21

#3 – Giving and Debt – 14:22-15:23, 26

#4 – Festivals – 16:1-22

#5 – Judges, Kings, Priests, Prophets -17:1-18:22

#6 – Cities of Refuge – 19:1-21

- Now in chapter 19 we have laws concerning the Cities of refuge, we will look at these in detail when we get to our next book, next month in the book of Joshua.
 - But sufficient for tonight is to understand God put cities of refuge no more than one day's run from every city in Israel.
- And the idea was if you killed someone by accident – you are chopping wood and the ax head flies off and you get the picture.
 - Well then you were to run to a city of refuge before the avenger of Blood who was a member of the family of the man you had accidentally killed caught you.
- In the city of refuge the elders of the city would listen to the case and if it was found that you really did accidentally kill the man, then you were safe in the city as long as you stayed in the city.
 - And you had to stay in the city until the death of the High Priest of Israel.
- But if the elders of the city were to find you guilty, then you would be put to death in the city of refuge.
 - More on that and the picture of Jesus it is, next month, we move on to chapter 20.

Remember Your Law – Deuteronomy 12-26

Laws Concerning....

#1 – Worship – 12:1-14:2

#2 – Diet – 14:3-21

#3 – Giving and Debt – 14:22-15:23, 26

#4 – Festivals – 16:1-22

#5 – Judges, Kings, Priests, Prophets -17:1-18:22

#6 – Cities of Refuge – 19:1-21

#7 – Battle – 20:1-20

- [Read 20:1-9](#)

In this chapter God regulates warfare or battle and the effects of battle after the war.

- God wanted them to know that they did not have to be afraid because He was with them.
 - They were not to go out to war unless God was leading them – it was not war for land or resources or revenge against unless God was leading them.
 - So when the children of Israel went out to battle they would know – God is with us.

God also says if a man in the army has recently taken a wife and not been with her or if he has planted a vineyard and not eaten of the fruit or built a house and not dedicated it or if you are just plain afraid, then go home.

- And the reason for this is fear spreads among the army and God didn't want one man ripping off hundreds of others with misplaced fear.

I think this applies somewhat to the spiritual battle that we fight, especially those of us who are leading ministries.

- I want guys around me who are not afraid that once the Lord has spoken, to take great steps of faith.
 - The first part is important – we don't want to just do things because our flesh wants more or needs some kinds of fulfillment.
- But if the Lord is leading I don't want some guy around me who sees everything that can possibly go wrong.

Or someone with mixed motives – well I would take that step of faith, but what about my house payment, what about my wife, what will I eat?

- That kind of mixed hearts spread.
 - So again – if the Lord is leading – not just because a pastor has an idea, but if the Lord is leading – God give us men and women who will not be afraid, who will not have a mixed heart, but will press forward knowing the Lord is with us.

Remember Your Law – Deuteronomy 12-26

Laws Concerning....

#1 – Worship – 12:1-14:2

#2 – Diet – 14:3-21

#3 – Giving and Debt – 14:22-15:23, 26

#4 – Festivals – 16:1-22

#5 – Judges, Kings, Priests, Prophets -17:1-18:22

#6 – Cities of Refuge – 19:1-21

#7 – Battle – 20:1-20

#8 – Regulating Common Practices – 21:1-22:30

- In these chapters God regulating or inserting Himself into common practices of that day.
 - Again sometimes the Bible gets flack because God does not say – never have slaves again, or never marry more than one woman, though He does pretty much say that in chapter 18.
- But what God does do is insert Himself into common practices of the day and show them His heart, protecting them from the fallout misusing those situations can bring.

In this section God deals with a wide variety of subjects including how to deal with a situation were someone has been killed but you don't know who the murder it is the days before CSI – it's amazing – go to the closest city and ask them to stand before the Lord and say, "I didn't do it."

Really ingenious when you consider today we have figured out if some crimes are happening that are related, you draw a circle around the events and the likelihood the criminal lives in a vicinity to those crimes is huge, especially in a day before cars – God is so smart.

- God regulates how you treat a women you want to make her your wife from the captives of battle.
 - You are not to mistreat her, you are to make her a Jew, not some side show attraction, she is to be your wife and you are not to sell her to a forgiven people where she would be abused.
- God regulates multiple marriages – that you are not to ignore one woman and not give her children the proper inheritance.
 - God knew – God knew you can only love one master and if you had multiple wives, one would be loved and the others would be ignored and the children would suffer – God knew this, it is why He told them not to do it, but since they did, He injects Himself into the situation and regulates it.

God regulates what happens when you have an older rebellious son.

- If He will not listen to his parents, the elders of the town are to stone that son.
 - Now that sounds so horrific to us, but please consider a few things – this was an older son, not a child.

- And there are very few records of it actually happening, because it would act as a huge deterrent.
- And we look at our system and who wants to say that American has figured out how to deal with rebellious children.

Again this is my point with the Law of Moses, we are not going to implement this in America, but before we make God out to be old and dumb we should...

- Compare what He did, where one teenage kid is put to death, and goes to heaven by the way, his salvation wasn't lost, but he goes to heaven and generations of young men and women in response learn from their parents and live right.
 - Compare that "abuse" to the gang culture we have in so many American cities and when you see it that way, which system it really uncaring?

In chapter 22 God regulates clothes, men are not suppose to wear girl clothes and girls are not suppose to where boy clothes. – look at 22:5

- Wearing girl's jeans guys is unbiblical; look right there in the Bible.
 - Now in actuality it is talking about far more than skinny boys going shopping with their girl friends and getting two for one deals.
- You have to take every culture into context – I mean in this day, everyone wore a dress sort of, and in Scotland, where my people are from, they wore kilts.
 - So what this is really talking about is that dressing in a way where you have a man saying, I am also a woman, where you have a woman and saying, but I am really a man.

I know our culture is fine with this sort of thing – but let's be clear, God is not.

- God created them man and women and that is the way God intends it to be.
 - Why – because He is God – He has made us and designed us and we think we are so smart and we have life really figured out, but what we will discover in the end is that God said these things because He loves us and He is trying to keep us from pain.

And if that offends you, then you may not want to read the rest of chapter 22 too closely.

- Because he takes about the different between adultery and rape.
 - If a couple commits adultery they are to be put to death.
 - Both of them, the man and the woman.
- If I women puts herself in a compromising situation and does nothing to stop a man's advances then God doesn't just punish the man, he holds the women responsible as well.

Now if a man forces himself on a women then it is just the man who was to be put to death.

- And please notice that – God sees rape as a crime that is deserving of death.

God says if a young man and a young women sleep together, that is not couples who are already attached, then that young man has chosen to marry that girl and he is to pay her father the brides' price or the dowry.

- Again I know we look at this and think that is so extreme.
 - But God knows the way young men's minds work.
 - If I give into my flesh, then it will cost me commitment and money
- And what happened, - well lots of young men didn't give into to their flesh and if they did, they were now married.
 - Again we can look at God's system and say, this is old and outdated or cruel – but check with the young woman who is giving sex for love, wanting commitment or the young man who just goes from girl to girl and see if they feel like what they are doing is the best way.

God also in this chapter regulates divorce, protecting the women from being used and abused and God also sets Israel aside as a sanctuary for slavery.

- If a slave gets away from his master and makes it to Israel then that man was to be free and begin to work to support himself.
 - All these regulations are from a loving heart of the Father.

Remember Your Law – Deuteronomy 12-26

Laws Concerning....

#1 – Worship – 12:1-14:2

#2 – Diet – 14:3-21

#3 – Giving and Debt – 14:22-15:23, 26

#4 – Festivals – 16:1-22

#5 – Judges, Kings, Priests, Prophets -17:1-18:22

#6 – Cities of Refuge – 19:1-21

#7 – Battle – 20:1-20

#8 – Regulating Common Practices – 21:1-22:30

#9 – Purity and Cleanliness – 23:1-25

- I love this one, its been a little heavy so draw your attention to [chapter 23, verse 12-14](#)

God says make a place outside your camp where you go and we all know what He is talking about.

- And then bring an instrument, a shovel and cover it up.
 - And I love His reasoning – I walk in your camp – it's the same reason I tell the kids to clean up the stuff in the backyard from the dog, because I walk around out there.

Now the reason I pulled this verse out, besides the fact I find it amusing, is because God really does tells them why.

- In our day and age we know the importance of properly dealing with refuse, and we have learned about cultures who did not and their cities that became cesspools.

But God doesn't mention any of that.

- He just says, this is my will and it is up to us to believe God by faith that He knows what He is talking about.
 - Sometime He does go through great explanations.
- But here God doesn't say, well there is disease in refuse and you need to dispose of it outside the camp to protect your water sources etc....
 - He doesn't say any of that – He says, because I walk in your camp and I don't want to step in that.

But that is just the point – because He is God and has spoken, we need to have the faith to believe He has a good reason.

- He understands our world more than we do and when we catch up we see God's law and say – oh, that makes so much sense.
 - But to them, why – this is a bummer, a burden to bury my stuff.
 - So He won't walk in it - that seems really self-serving.
- But it wasn't – it was God's love expressed to them.
 - And I just point this out because of all of His law.
 - He says don't fornicate, don't commit adultery, don't be in bondage to sin – oh that is so self-serving.
 - Someday we will see – oh that really was the best for me.
- And wise is the man or woman that sees it now – Lord you know what I never will so I choose to believe you by faith!

Remember Your Law – Deuteronomy 12-26

Laws Concerning....

#1 – Worship – 12:1-14:2

#2 – Diet – 14:3-21

#3 – Giving and Debt – 14:22-15:23, 26

#4 – Festivals – 16:1-22

#5 – Judges, Kings, Priests, Prophets -17:1-18:22

#6 – Cities of Refuge – 19:1-21

#7 – Battle – 20:1-20

#8 – Regulating Common Practices – 21:1-22:30

#9 – Purity and Cleanliness – 23:1-25

#10 – Social Issues – 24:1-25:19

- We have dealt with enough tonight, so I will leave you to read these chapters on your own as I have done with most of tonight.

God in these chapters says, in the first year of marriage don't go out to war.

- Why? – Because you are already at war, (He doesn't actually say that, but that is what He means) no need to go out, just focus on your bride, and focus on your relationship.

He regulates how you provide for the poor and once again what happens when your older brother dies without a son, and it being their responsibility to marry their brother's wife and raise up a son in his place, something we will look at in more detail in the book of Ruth.

- But all of these things go back to what I just said a moment ago.
 - The overreaching theme of God law – He knows.
 - We may figure it out later, like we have with pork and shellfish and why burying your refuse is smart – we may figure out why later.
- But it is good for us just to say – you are God and I want to live by your Word where I will be blessed because you love me like a Father.