

## **Deuteronomy 31-34**

### **“Remember your Leader”**

#### **Introduction:**

- Tonight we are going to finish 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 whom 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 understand 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 in 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**

**As we get to the final sermon of Moses, I want to first draw your attention to verse 16, we will get back to verse one in just a minute, but verse 16 really sets the tone for what Moses is trying to accomplish in this final sermon to the people.**

- [Read chapter 31:16-18](#)

**God tells Moses – you are going to die, it his birthday by the way as we will see in verse 2 – so Happy Birthday Moses – you are going to die today.**

- And your people are not going to walk with me.
  - Talk about a bumner birthday.

- Now – why would God do this – why on the man’s birthday would God tell him he is going to die and his people who he has been ministering to for 40 years that they will not follow Him – why?

**The reason is God has a few more things for Moses to do that are of the utmost importance because of the people’s rebellious hearts.**

- And because his time is short – this is the last day of his life.
  - There is no I will get to that next week.
  - Today is the day Moses and these final tasks are of the upmost importance, because of who the people are.
  - We are going to look at these three things God needs him to do on Moses’ final day.

**Remember your Leader – Deuteronomy 31-34**

**#1 – Moses’ Successor – Chapter 31**

**#2 – Moses’ Song – Chapter 32**

**#3 – Moses’ Send off – Chapter 33-34**

- Let’s look at those one at a time.
  - Starting with Moses’ appointing a successor.
  - [Read chapter 31:1-15](#)

**Remember your Leader – Deuteronomy 31-34**

**#1 – Moses’ Successor – Chapter 31**

- The first thing that God wanted Moses to do was to appoint and commission Joshua to be the new leader of the Children of Israel.
  - People need godly leadership, and to face this trying time ahead they needed a godly man.
  - And God’s choice was Joshua.
- Joshua was no stranger to the children of Israel.
  - He was Moses’ servant long before he became Moses’ successor.
- It was Joshua who led the Jewish Army in defeating the Amalekites, Joshua was with Moses on Mount Sinai, and Joshua was one of the 12 spies and only one of the two faithful ones who returned with a good report.
  - And as we realize that, there is something we need to see – number one.

**#1 – There is a Spiritual principal.**

- In Zechariah chapter 4:10 – The Bible warns against despising the days of small things.
  - **So often we look at serving the Lord and say – If I had his job – If I got to teach Wednesday Nights – then I would really serve you Lord – Oh if I got to lead worship, then I would be serious – If I could be a fulltime missionary then I would be so faithful.**
  - But the problem is, it doesn’t work that way, it can’t work that way.

**Because if you want to serve the Lord for the glory, you are in the wrong business.**

- The people see this, on stage, people coming to listen – people clapping after worship – missionary reports being read – and they think how fun – I want to be a pastor, I want to lead worship, I want to be in the mission field, it sounds like such a joy – and it is.
  - But what you don’t see is the person who says, I don’t like you, I don’t like this church, I’m leaving, what you don’t see is the people who say to \_\_\_\_\_, “can’t you do it this way, why don’t you play like this” – what you don’t see is the lonely weeks, months out in the mission field, with nothing happening.
- The reason I say this is because God knows how it is – and if you are in for the glory, then you won’t last.

○ But if you are in it because you simply want to serve Jesus – well then, let's go.  
**But where that is established is not on stage, not with the guitar, not out in the mission field.**

- It is established doing the things that no one cares about, that no one will give you thanks for.
  - It's established in the nursery – those babies won't thank you – its established cleaning the bathrooms, but a toilet has never thanked me.
  - But in the small things is where character is built.

**Jason that is easy for you to say, you're the pastor.**

- That's right, and although I'm young, I'm been doing this for almost 15 years now.
  - **And the first two years was doing nothing but cleaning toilets, wiping imaginary black spots off walls that only the assistant pastor could see, and vacuuming the church** – that's it – no Bible studies, no "I'm so blessed" – small things.
- But the reality is you serve God faithfully in the small things.
  - When He is looking for the one to replace Moses' – He picks Joshua – one who was going for it, even in the small things.
  - We need to learn from that spiritual principal.
- But there is not just a spiritual principal.

**#2 – There is also a Spiritual picture.**

- There is also a spiritual picture in this as well.
  - Moses cannot lead the people into the Promised Land and we know that the reason is because of Moses' failure at Meribah – when he struck the rock instead of speaking to the rock.
  - But there is an even bigger picture behind it.

**You see – Moses typologically is a picture of law in the Bible.**

- Moses is the lawgiver – he is a picture of the law.
  - Joshua – well, who is Joshua, a picture of what in the Scriptures?
  - Joshua's name is Yashua, which is a Hebrew word – translate that into Greek and the name is Jesus.
- For many reasons that we will study in more detail when we head back into the Old Testament and study the book of Joshua, Joshua is a picture of Jesus.

**And now with that understanding – we see a picture forming.**

- The children of Israel are about to enter a new land, the Promised Land, a land flowing with milk and honey.
  - But Moses, the law, cannot take them in.
  - It has to be Joshua, Jesus.
- I still don't get it.
  - Well, if you remember the picture of what the Promised Land is – it is the Spirit filled life, the Spirit led life – it is everything God wants for you in your walk with Him.
  - But here is the deal.
- You can't get there through the law.
  - The law has its purpose, to show you your need for Christ, to show you how to live – but you will never enter into all that God has for you by trying your best to follow the law.
  - And it's not a problem with the law, the problem is with you – you don't keep the law.
  - So we need Jesus! – Doesn't make keeping the law not so important – still is – but you need Jesus.

### **You need Jesus – to get wrapped in to who He is.**

- To follow Him, unashamed, unhindered – completely abandoned to Him.
  - And what you will find – is He leads you into all good things.

### **So Moses must appoint Joshua, yes because Moses misrepresented the Lord when he struck the rock instead of speaking to the rock in Numbers 20.**

- He misrepresented God – it ruined the prophetic picture because Jesus is the rock and He only needed to be struck once, now we speak to Him, Lord forgive me and forgiveness flows.
  - Moses misrepresented God, blew the prophetic picture of the rock – and Jesus must take us in.

### **For all those reasons Moses first assignment is to appoint and inaugurate Joshua.**

- So the people are clear who is going to lead them – they are a rebellious people, they need a leader.
  - And they need the law.
- So Moses appoints Joshua, and then he writes down the law, what we have been studying for a year now from Genesis to Deuteronomy (he had been working on it for 40 years, but now it is all placed together).
  - And he tells the leaders verses 9-10– every seven years you need to be in this part of the book – you need to be in the law.

### **And just to give you a little insight, when I was pastoring the church in Texas, it was this verse that God used to really direct me in how I was suppose to teach the Bible.**

- When I first starting teaching here in High School ministry – I would do the New Testament slowly on Sunday Mornings and the Old Testament slowly on Wednesday Nights.
  - And I continued that when I started the church in Texas.
- But two things really happened, one I realize that the congregation really didn't know the Bible cover to cover – I would mention David and I would get asked questions like was he an apostle with Peter and Paul, well no – David was a king of Israel, and Peter and Paul weren't apostles together, Paul was not one of the 12.
  - And I realized the many, not all, but many did not have a grasp of the scriptures.
- So I prayed and prayed on that – Lord what do I do? And the Lord put on my heart – be passionate about getting them in the Word themselves to read the Bible for themselves cover to cover and the way you teach needs to change.

### **6 months in we were midway through Genesis on Wednesday Night and mid way through Matthew on Sunday mornings.**

- And I new I needed to go faster, but how, at the current pace it would have taken me 20 years to finish the Bible, and I thought the two year bible scans were too fast – so I was praying and in my personal devotions I was reading through Deuteronomy and came to this passage.
  - Where God tells Moses to tell the leaders, every seven years I want you in the law.
- So I started to figure, well that is faster than 20 years, and slower than every two years.
  - And I realized that if I taught at about the speed of 4-5 chapters in the Old Testament, going slower in critical parts and faster in some sections that can be overviewed, like two weeks ago, that I could teach the Old Testament in just over 3 years and then slow it down to a pace of 2 chapters a week and teach the New Testament in just under four years.

- Finishing teaching through the Bible in seven years and every seven years being in the law.

**So I am open to change as the Holy Spirit leads because I know this congregation has been going through the Word on your own and by the teaching of Pastor Rob and Brian before him for years.**

- But also realize, it is my hope that new people who haven't been here for 25 years fill this church, those who haven't been challenged to read this book cover to cover on their own, who haven't studied the book of Leviticus, or Deuteronomy or the Minor Prophets.
  - And so for now, this place on Wednesday is my passion, which came from the Word and I believe from the Lord in Deuteronomy 31.

**So Moses appoints a new leader, they get the law and are encouraged to be in it, every seven years, so task one is completed for Moses and then...**

**Remember your Leader – Deuteronomy 31-34**

**#1 – Moses' Successor – Chapter 31**

**#2 – Moses' Song – Chapter 32**

- Let's look at chapter 31, verse 19 for context.
  - Read the rest of chapter 31.

**Moses, you are going to die and your people are horrible so I want you to appoint them a leader, a successor, and give him the law because they need it.**

- And secondly I want you to write them, I want you to write them a scourge, just yell at them Moses.
  - No –that is not what God tells him to do.
  - Not to write them a scourge, but write them a song.

**Why a song?**

- Because songs help us remember things, songs stick in our minds.
  - I mean companies have known that for years.

**Little experiment – sing with me if you know it?**

- Oh I wish I were an \_\_\_\_\_ wiener, that is what I really want to be, cause if I was and Oscar Myer wiener, everyone would be in love with me.
  - Do you realize that was written the year I was born – that was 35 years ago friends – and yet, we can sing it
- Da, den, dena – Batman!!!!
  - We remember songs.
  - Quick Philippians chapter 2? – You are so carnal!!!

**God tells Moses to write a song, and I love it, Moses does it that day – of course this why God told him because he only had that day.**

- But He didn't say I'm not a musician, I don't feel inspired – Moses just did what God told him to do.

**The overall purpose of the song was a way for the people to remember – it has been the whole theme of Deuteronomy, and it is the theme of this song as well.**

- The people would be tempted to sin, but God wanted them to remember – remember what???

**The Song of Moses – Remember What?**

**#1 - The Character of God – verses 1-4**

- Moses wanted the people to remember how great their God truly was – that as they were tempted to follow these dumb idols; on their mind would be the greatness of the one they were to serve.
  - This is not just good for the Jews to remember but us as well.

- AW Toser said, “No religion has ever been greater than its idea of God. The first step down for any church is taken when it surrenders its high opinion of God” – how true that is.
  - The minute we forget who it is we are praying to, whom it is we are studying about – it is the minute we lose our sense of awe.
  - Friends – God truly is an awesome God – Great song – I don’t know if it was written with the intention of – awesome, dude – or the real meaning – which is worthy of wonder, to be respected and feared.
  - Our God is awesome!!!!

### **The Song of Moses – Remember What?**

#### **#1 - The Character of God – verses 1-4**

#### **#2 - The Goodness of God – verses 5-14**

- After reminding them of His Character, Moses turns to God’s goodness.
  - That even when they were not faithful, God would be - And even when things looked tough, God was using it to grow them up.

#### **Moses uses the illustration of an Eagle bearing her young.**

Eagle parents, when their children are old enough, kick them out of the nest and the bird begins to fall but right before it hits the ground mama eagle swoops under her young and carries it back to the nest. It does this over and over again and the young eagle has to think what are you doing, I don’t understand – except eventually, the young eagle expands its wings and begins to fly – that is why the parent does it – to teach the young to fly and every time as traumatic as the experience is – the mama eagle is always there.

**So too with the Lord – He lets us go through experiences – but not without a purpose – it is grow us, mature us to where we need to be.**

**Some see in verse 13 a prophecy – all these blessings are blessings God gives them in places they do not expect.**

- And in verse 13 God says, He will give them oil from the flinty rock.
  - The whole joke in the Middle East has always been when you are in Israel that God gave them the one place in the Middle East that wasn’t sitting on a sea of oil.
  - And that has been true until recently.
- Vast natural gas reserves have been discovered off the coast of Israel.
  - With the development of fracking for oil – taking oil out of rocks, a new technology that has really caused an oil boom in the United States in places like South Dakota, now you wouldn’t know we are in a oil boom at the gas pump, but that is a study for another time. But one of the largest reserves of shell oil is found under Israel because there are a lot of flinty rocks over there and it is poised to change the economy of the Middle East and Israel – it would be a prophesy for later not then, but could be – the Lord is good to His people.

### **The Song of Moses – Remember What?**

#### **#1 - The Character of God – verses 1-4**

#### **#2 - The Goodness of God – verses 5-14**

#### **#3 - The Faithfulness of God – verses 15-25**

- After reminding them of his awesomeness, and of His goodness – next God reminds them of His faithfulness.
  - And that sounds real nice, but specifically of his faithfulness to allow consequences to happen if His people would not listen to the law, if they would not respond to his character, to his goodness – then they would get His

faithfulness, His faithfulness to keep His word – that if you don't do this – this will happen.

You as parents understand this as well – if you lay down rules for your children, and then allow them to break them without consequence – you are teaching your kids to be rebellious – but if you bring the consequences – though they might not like them or you – you are teaching them to walk in righteousness – and it is just another side of love.

- Another way that God chastised them was to bless other groups of people, verse 21, including the church.

**We can get real prideful as the church, why can't Israel see their Messiah, what a dumb people – but be careful – we need to remember who we are – we are the group God is using to make his people jealous – Romans 10 says we are the branch that was grafted in.**

- Don't get prideful – learn from Israel – love God, walk humbly with Him.
  - God is awesome, God is good, God is also faithful, and faithful even to bring repercussions.

**The Song of Moses – Remember What?**

**#1 - The Character of God – verses 1-4**

**#2 - The Goodness of God – verses 5-14**

**#3 - The Faithfulness of God – verses 15-25**

**#4 - The Justice of God – verses 26-43**

**The last thing Moses wanted them to remember in His song was that God would set things right with those who opposed him.**

- You see God used Babylon, Assyria, and the Romans, to chastise his people.
  - And there is the tendency to think – that is not fair, those people are wicked and they are getting away with it, while God's people are judged, that is not right.
  - No – there is coming a reckoning.

**And we have seen this to some extent.**

- God allowed Assyria to capture Israel – but God judged Assyria with the nation of Babylon – no more Assyria – but the Jews are still around.
  - God allowed Babylon to capture Israel – but God allowed the Medes to devastate Babylon – no more Babylonians – but the Jews are still around.
  - God allowed Rome to sack Israel and decimated it – but God allowed the Goths and the Vandals and others to sack Rome.
- No more Rome – but there is an Israel.
  - God sets things right.
- You just serve the Lord, love people.
  - But this guy drives me nuts and nothing ever happens.
  - God will set it right in the end.

**You see the language is partly fulfilled in God judging Assyria, Babylon and Rome, but not completely.**

- There is coming a day yet future, where God will set things right for the nations.

**Because, God is awesome, God is good, God is faithful, and God is just.**

- We need to remember this as much as Israel did.

**Remember your Leader – Deuteronomy 31-34**

**#1 – Moses' Successor – Chapter 31**

**#2 – Moses' Song – Chapter 32**

**#3 – Moses' Send off – Chapter 33-34**

- After appointing His successor and writing a song, Moses has one more task and that is a send off a final word for the people.

- And if there were anyone in history that could have been bitter, it would have been Moses.
- I have been leading you for 40 years and you guys are horrible.
- And now I don't even get to go in – because of you guys making me mad, well good luck.
  - But that is not what this leader does.
  - He blesses every tribe of Israel.
  - Let's read chapter 33 and then I will make some comments.

**Jeshurun is another name in the Bible for Israel, so that is what Moses is talking about.**

- And He blesses each of these tribes of Israel.
  - I especially love what he says to Asher in verse 25.

**“As your days, so shall your strength be.” – Deuteronomy 33:25**

- What a promise from the Lord.
  - As your day, so shall your strength be.
  - You know sometimes I just don't know if I have what it will take to get through what I know is coming next week.
- Do you ever feel that way?
  - Or you see someone else going through a horrible trial, a loss of a close loved one and you think I could never endure that.
  - Well that may be true, until you are in it – and then somehow God gives you what you need.

**He doesn't often give it to us years in advance, or months or even weeks.**

- But in the day we need it God will give it.
  - As your days are – what you are facing today – God will be enough for that day.

**Jesus told His disciples...**

**“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” – Matthew 6:34**

- We spend so much worrying about tomorrow, will I have what I need tomorrow, will I have what it takes to get through tomorrow, will I overcome that sin in my life tomorrow.
  - Hey – take that stuff to the Lord tomorrow.
  - It is today.
- And God promises us – as your days are, what's going on today – so your strength shall be – great promise.
  - Well, how do I know I am going to have strength for today?
  - Verse 27 – because under you are His everlasting arms.
- What a picture – God in creation just flicked those stars, those gigantic balls of gas and matter into orbit.
  - He holds the universe in the span of His hands.
  - But under you – precious men and women are His everlasting arms.
  - Such blessing from Moses heart to God's people.

**Chapter 34 – the death of Moses - read it.**

- God lets Him see the promise – it's not rubbing it in, it's helping Moses see that God is going to keep His word to His people.
  - And then God takes Moses and buries him.
- Why does God bury Him? – Because if any man knew where his grave was – I guarantee there would be an altar set up there today – what an affront to the law.

**So God buries Moses and that is it until we read in Jude verse 9 that Satan and Michael the archangel fought over the body of Moses.**



- Now why were they fighting over Moses body, we are not going to get into tonight.
  - Because I wrote a book that explains that and it is available for \$400 in the back tonight.
  - Just kidding – we don't know, we have no idea.
- You can ask God when you get to heaven.

**The people of Israel mourn for Moses 30 days.**

- And God writes His eulogy.
  - The word eulogy means, “to speak well of.”
  - Remember that at the next funeral you are at – it is not a time to bring out the bad stuff.

**What the Holy Spirit says about this man is that He was a servant.**

- There is not a greater thing that can be said of you.
  - Because Jesus was a servant – He came to serve not to be served.
  - We want to hear well done my good and faithful servant.
- Living in America we think that the goal is to be on top, to have people answer to us.
  - But the Lord sees things different – this man Moses was the greatest, because He was a servant.

**Because He had time face to face with God.**

- You want to know the secret to greatness; it is to have lots of face time with Jesus.
  - To be in His presence, to be dwelling with Him.
  - Because some of who He is rubs off on who you are.
- And that is what I need – less of me, and more of Him in my life – like His servant, the man Moses!