

Acts of High Treason

Deuteronomy 13:1-18

- 1) Yahweh above Religious Leaders (vv.1-5)
 - A) _____ a False Prophet (vv.1-2)
 - B) A proper response: It's a _____! (vv.3-4)
 - You Shall Not: Listen (v.3)
 - You Shall: walk, fear, keep, obey, serve, hold fast (v.4)
 - C) Purge Evil from your midst: High _____ (v.5)

- 2) Yahweh above Friends and Family (vv.6-11)
 - A) _____ from those closest to you (vv.6-7)
 - B) A Proper response: Don't allow human _____ to interfere (vv.8-9)
 - You Shall Not: Yield, Listen, Pity, Spare, Conceal (v.8)
 - You Shall: Take the _____ role in destruction (v.9)
 - C) Purge Evil from your midst: As an _____ (vv.9-11)

- 3) Yahweh above other Believers (12-18)
 - A) A _____ of idolatry and a _____ inquiry (v 12-14)
 - B) A proper response: Devote all to destruction as an offering (v15-17)
 - You Shall Not: keep any of the devoted things (v 17)
 - You Shall: Obey, Keep, Do what is right (v 17)
 - C) Purge Evil from your midst: So _____ is turned and _____ given (v 15-18)

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Small Group Questions

1. In 13:2, Moses refers to a false prophet being able to perform wonders and signs THAT COME TO PASS! How does our usual thinking differ from that? Read Jesus' words in Mark 13:22-23. What does he say about false prophets? How does Ephesians 6:11-12 relate? What are some areas today in which we see "false prophets" giving signs and wonders? How do we know they are false?
2. In verses 6-11 Moses addresses the human tendency to allow close family and friends extra leniency and to bend the rules for them. But Moses makes it clear that there is no exception for family! Read Luke 14:26. How have they had an influence on you in the past? Do you struggle to confront family and friends?
3. The exodus story is retold twice in our passage as a means to motivate people to faithfulness. Moses was reminding Israel that they were slaves redeemed by the grace of God. As Christians it is helpful for us to be reminded we were sinners redeemed by grace. How does this truth help us when dealing with temptations to turn to idolatry of any kind? Is it simply a matter of being obedient in order to repay Christ for his sacrifice?
4. This notion of capital punishment and language like "purge evil" often go cross-grain to our thinking. Paul uses this same language in 1 Cor 5:13 when speaking about church discipline and excommunication. How is the sin of idolatry similar to High Treason and why is it so serious? Why do you think we so quickly dismiss the seriousness of this sin? What is the danger in that?
5. Often the tone of New Testament passages don't reach the same severity found in Deuteronomy 13. But the following do! Read them and discuss how they emphasize the importance of allegiance to the one true God and his teaching. (Gal 1:8-9) (1 Cor 5:5, 16:22)
6. In his commentary on Deuteronomy, Ajith Fernando quotes from Chris Wright. If time permits discuss the quote amongst your group and why it is.

C.S. Lewis once said that if we no longer feel comfortable with the cursing psalms, for example, it is not because of our greater "Christian" sensitivity, but because of our appalling moral apathy. We no longer feel the passion of the psalmist that God should deal with evil and evildoers and vindicate God's own moral order in the word. We respond to idolatrous, blasphemous evil not with a curse, but a shrug, and then we have the gall to claim morally higher ground than ancient Israel. Similarly, if we can no longer identify with the scale of priorities and values that under-gird Deuteronomy 13, it is manifestly not because we have acquired a greater appreciation of the value of human life, but because we have lost any sense of the awful majesty of God's reality.

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