

More Than Simply Rules

Deuteronomy 4:1-14

Thematic Statement: (vs.1,5,14)

- A) Listen to the statutes and rules, and do them in the land.
(_____)
- B) They are from the God of your Fathers/the Lord Your God.
(_____)
- C) The Lord is giving you possession of the land. (_____)

1) Danger of Disobedience (vs.2-4)

- A) Do not _____ or _____ from God's Word (v.2)
- B) Disobedience leads to _____ (vs.3-4)

2) Witness through Obedience (vs.6-8)

- A) Obedience leads to a _____ of wisdom and understanding (v.6)
- B) A _____ God vs. _____ idols (v.7)
- C) The Law is _____ in and of itself, it reflects the _____ of God (v.8)

3) Remembering to Obey (vs.9-13)

- A) Keep _____ from forgetting (v.9a)
- B) Remind and teach your children to _____ God (v.9b)
- C) They heard the _____ of the Lord but saw no _____.
(vs.11-13)

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Small Group Questions

1. The Israelites were a chosen people by God. Part of the covenant that God made with Israel was that they would be His people and He would be their God (Gen 17:7-8). What is the importance of God being the one choosing (Eph 2:8-9)? How does this relate to us in our walk with God?
2. In verse 2, Moses instructs the Israelites to refrain from adding to or taking away from God's Word. What are some biblical examples of this happening? (Gen 2:16; 3:3; Rev 22:18-19; Prov 30:5-6,). What are some dangers of altering God's Word? How can we be sure to avoid making these mistakes?
3. In our society today, discussing judgment and hell is often avoided, even in evangelical churches. At funerals we often hear about how people are in a better place, regardless of their beliefs. Why has hell become a topic that we avoid? It seems that Jesus was not afraid to mention it, (Matt 10:14-16; John 3:18-20; John 5:24; Rom 11:22), what was the purpose of his teaching on it? Is it appropriate to use judgment as a motivator for evangelism, repentance, or holy living?
4. One of the purposes for obedience to the Law was so that other nations would recognize something different about the God that Israel served compared to the false gods they served. How does this contrast with these passages; (Matt 6:5-6; 1Peter 2:12; Col 4:5) How could living for God lead to more people seeing his Glory?
5. The nations surrounding Israel were known for idol worship. Their idols were obviously not relational like the one true God, who was so near to the Israelites they could call upon Him. Why would this be attractive to the other nations? How might the relational attributes of God be used to share the Gospel with someone in today's society?
6. Israel didn't really "forget" the Law, they chose not to trust in it. When we disobey God it often comes back to our lack of faith in Him. What are areas in your life that you struggle to trust God in? How can you begin to trust God more in these areas? (Josh 1:8; Ps 1:2; Col 3:16-17)
7. What is the significance of reminding the Israelites that they saw no form of God, but rather, only heard and read his Word?

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