



Sunday, November 17, 2019
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Joshua 8

Those who think that God does not exhibit grace and mercy in the Old Testament have not read very carefully. Here in Joshua 8, we get yet another glimpse into the mercy of God in giving the people of Israel a “re-do” after failing to keep His commandments even through their first battle in the promised land. Though the whole community was held responsible for Achan’s sin, their collective obedience in judgment on Achan and his family demonstrated repentance and the LORD was gracious enough to restore them to their mission of taking hold of the promised land.

In the same way for us, though lost ground is difficult to make up, as Pastor Don said Sunday, it is possible to be restored because of God’s grace. Our repentance, like the repentance of the people of Israel, must be sincere, but in responding that way, God shows His mercy. This is why the people were able to go on to fulfill the law of Moses according to Deuteronomy 27—because they responded to sin in the camp with repentance and faith that God would be merciful to them.

Context

In Joshua 8, we see the fulfillment of the mission set out in the previous chapter. In the previous chapter, Joshua had set out to conquer the next Canaanite city but was thwarted because of the sin in the camp. In this chapter, Joshua and the people are successful because the LORD has gone with them once again to defeat their enemies. The context of Deuteronomy 27 is crucial to understanding this passage—that the LORD had foreseen and commanded that the people enact the ceremonial commitment to the covenant in the law of Moses (including the blessings and curses) to, in some sense, become His people once again (see Deut. 27:9).

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Joshua 8:1-35

“Between Two Mountains”

- Rout of God’s Enemy (1-29)
- Renewal of God’s People (30-35)
 - o Background: Deuteronomy 27
 - o Offerings (First sacrifices in the land)
 - o Writing (10 commandments)
 - o Inclusiveness (foreigners)
 - o Writing and Reading
 - o Goal: Blessing
 - o Chief Enemy? Disobedience!

This is all about placing the law of God in the center of your life!

Discuss

- 1) Pastor Don said, “Lost ground in the Christian life is hard to recover and costly.” Have you found this to be true in your life? If so, in what ways?

- 2) Pastor Don also said, “The chief challenge for Israel was not a foreign army, but disobedience. In the same way, the chief challenge for the church is not the culture, but our own sin or unbelief.” Do you find yourself more concerned with the influence of the outside world or sin in your own heart? Why do you think that is?

- 3) To combat this greatest enemy, we must be “people of the Book.” What does the discipline of “Bible intake” (reading, listening, sermons, etc.) look like in your life?

- 4) What is the greatest obstacle between where you are now and spending more regular time in God’s word?

- 5) How can we better encourage one another to be more disciplined in reading and applying the Bible?