



Deuteronomy
Chapter 28
The Message

⁹ GOD will form you as a people holy to him, just as he promised you, if you keep the commandments of GOD, your God, and live the way he has shown you.

¹⁰ All the peoples on Earth will see you living under the Name of GOD and hold you in respectful awe.

¹¹⁻¹⁴ GOD will lavish you with good things: children from your womb, offspring from your animals, and crops from your land, the land that GOD promised your ancestors that he would give you. GOD will throw open the doors of his sky vaults and pour rain on your land on schedule and bless the work you take in hand. You will lend to many nations but you yourself won't have to take out a loan. GOD will make you the head, not the tail; you'll always be the top dog, never the bottom dog, as you obediently listen to and diligently keep the commands of GOD, your God, that I am commanding you today. Don't swerve an inch to the right or left from the words that I command you today by going off following and worshipping other gods.

“We wait for God to bless us while God waits for us to accept the blessing.” B. Thompson



Sermon Notes

PROBLEMS OF PLENTY

“Make sure that when you eat and are satisfied, build pleasant houses and settle in, see more and more money come in, watch your standard of living going up—make sure you don't become so full of yourself and your things that you forget GOD, your God.” Deuteronomy 8:13-14 (Msg)

Seeds of Arrogance: *one's superiority toward others*

“Look at me.” Arrogance confuses vice and virtue

Seeds of Indulgence: *What's in it for me?*

“Money doesn't change people, it merely unmasks them. If a man is naturally selfish or arrogant or greedy, the money brings that out, that's all.” Henry Ford

Seeds of Despair: *“a chasing after the wind...”*

Stewardship *being committed to the mission of God*

Calling: *being formed as a holy people*

Confidence: *personally connected to God*

Control: *a purposeful use of resources*

Contribution: *people will see you and be in awe*



Spiritual Checkup

SELF-ASSESSMENT

When you join a church, you make a vow to God to become a faithful disciple of Christ, to serve the mission of Christ, and to share the message of Christ.

With time, commitments can fade and our passion and loses steam.

(circle one)

Prayers: how regularly do you pray for your church?

- ① Rarely ② Sometimes ③ Regularly

Presence: how regularly do you attend worship?

- ① <10 times/yr ② 10-30 times/yr ③ >40 times/yr

Gifts: how much do you give financially?

- ① <2% (nat'l avg.) ② <5% ③ <10%

Gifts: When should you give?

- ① when I attend only ② Sometimes ③ Abundance

Service: I am actively serving the church and its mission.

- ① Not yet ② Sometimes ③ Regularly

Witness: how often do you have spiritual conversations?

- ① Rarely ② Sometimes ③ Regularly

By the numbers...

- 1-9 Growth opportunities
10-14 Time to stretch and grow.
14-18 Strong Discipleship

A disciple is, in a real sense, not a finished product; rather it is a lifelong endeavor of becoming.

"Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD. That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17

- ¹ Not to us, LORD, not to us
but to your name be the glory,
because of your love and faithfulness.
² Why do the nations say,
"Where is their God?"
³ Our God is in heaven;
he does whatever pleases him.
⁴ But their idols are silver and gold,
made by human hands.
⁵ They have mouths, but cannot speak,
eyes, but cannot see.
⁶ They have ears, but cannot hear,
noses, but cannot smell.
⁷ They have hands, but cannot feel,
feet, but cannot walk,
nor can they utter a sound with their throats.
⁸ Those who make them will be like them,
and so will all who trust in them.

Psalm 115