**Deuteronomy 8: Advice to Disciples**

Note: These are Moses’ parting words to young disciples. They are the equivalent to Matthew 28:18-20 for Jesus. The young generation is about to enter the Promised Land and he is preparing them for that.

1 Cor 10:11-12 These things are for us. Look for a spiritual equivalent to the physical version of the same thing in Deuteronomy.

Deut 8:1-5

Ex: They had left Egypt. Spiritual equivalent? In sin.

Ex: They left Egypt by going through water. Spiritual equivalent? Baptized (1 Cor 10:1-4)

Ex: Now, they are wandering in the wilderness. Spiritual equivalent? Life of disciple.

Ex: Hopefully, they will enter the Land. Spiritual equivalent? Heaven.

What is the purpose of this admonition?

1. So they can live and prosper (blessings in this life)

2. So that they can enter the Promised Land

Remember the context: The first generation had not been faithful and “their bodies were scattered across the desert.” (Hebrews 3:16-19)

v. 2 Q: What is God’s method to bless us now and to get us to heaven?

Why does God have to humble us? Because the whole point is that he wants us to rely on him, not on ourselves. (2b. Obedience when tested is the real test.)

v. 3 How did he humble them? By causing them to hunger (and to thirst).

They had NO WAY to feed themselves. They were totally reliant on God.

They had NO WAY to get enough water.

Where did they go? They sat there for years. Then God said move!

Q: How has God humbled you? What need do you feel that God allowed you have?

He allowed you to stay single a lot longer than you planed.

He allowed you to lose your job.

He allowed you to experience loneliness

v. 3 Then he fed you with manna. God causes you to hunger, then he meets your need , but not the way you would expect. He did not give them what they wanted, but what they needed. (Numbers 21:4-9 and/or Numbers 11:4-6).

The lesson: Man does not live on bread alone, but on the Word of God. Physical stuff is not the important stuff. We are stubborn about learning this. We need to learn to rely for our REAL sustenance on God, not on self-effort.

We have bread served up for us every single day. If we want to enter the Promised Land we better eat the bread.

God’s strategy to bless you, both now and to get you to heaven: Teach you to rely on him. Do you rely on God?

v. 4 Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell.

God gives you miracles every single day. We need to remember this. We need to recognize this. We need to appreciate this on a regular basis. So many blessings. We need to continually remind ourselves of this.

Like when your bangs look really good even though it is windy.

They had bread every day. We have a miracle every day when we read the Bible.

Lindsay: Using his remote to turn out the lights in the room. Button would not work. Then he said, “God please turn out this light” Nothing worked. Finally he said out loud, “God please turn out this light” The light went out.

For me: when I am traveling, God always takes care of me. (Like Mexico City)

They had manna every single day!!!! They had the column of fire and the water from the rock!!!

v. 5. God will discipline you. How has God disciplined you? What was his purpose in this?

v. 6-9 Remember in all this, God’s goal is to give you amazing, wonderful blessings—and to get you to heaven!

God has two ways to humble us:

1. By blessing us with a lot of good things.

2. By taking those things away from us so that we will learn to rely on him.

They were walking around in the Promised Land. They were there already, but not yet.

We, too, are there already, but not yet. God is blessing us so much.

But….

8:10 You better praise the Lord your God.

Q: Why is this so important?

8:11 Observe his commands. Remember, there is a connection between praising God and observing his commands. If we stop being grateful, we will also stop obeying his commands.

8:12-18 Could this happen to us? Are we ridiculously blessed?

v. 12 Q: Are you “satisfied”? Have you “settled down”? Have you gotten comfortable? Or are you willing to stay on the perpetual spiritual edge?

God gave me a great spouse.

God gave us wonderful children.

God put me in a great church.

God has given me a great job.

Brothers and sisters: Do not let God’s blessings become a curse!

v. 13 Are we Americans particularly prone to this problem (compared to them, for example)?

v. 14 Then you will no longer appreciate your salvation.

v. 16 Remember: He gave you manna to humble you. To cause you to appreciate what he has done.

v. 16 Why? He wants to bless you!!! He does not want to test you. He does not want to discipline you. He wants to bless you.

v. 17-18 You will give credit to yourself. 1 Cor 4:7

Summary: Deut 8:19-20. This is serious business, folks. If you do not get this, you will not make it.