

“A Blessing or a Curse?”

Deu. 11:1-28

Open: Story

- God spoke directly to those who were the young people the first time Israel was at Canaan’s doorstep. **vs. 1-7**
- God wanted Israel to realize that life in Canaan Land was much different than life in Egypt, and the life they had lived the past 40 years wandering in the wilderness. **vs. 8-12**
- God wanted Israel to recognize that the blessings in Canaan would come in direct relation to their obedience to the commandments they had received. **vs. 13-17**
- God wanted Israel to realize while it was God’s obligation to bless the obedience it was the people’s responsibility to not only live a blessing life, but to teach the next generation how to live a life that God could bless. **vs. 18-25**
- God did not dictate the decision His people should make; but He simply showed them the facts and allowed them to choose for themselves whether or not they would obey. **vs. 26-28**

Tran: Application

- God wants His children to see the great potential for blessings, but He also warns us about the consequences for choosing to follow the flesh and not living by faith.
- God has a unique and a special place for His children. When we got saved, we gained access to some amazing promises; but it is important we recognized we can only gain access to these blessings by obeying, through faith, the truth that is attached to the promises.
 - Provisions – **Phil. 4:19** “*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*”
 - Protection – **Eph. 6:13** “*Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*”
 - Procreation of victory – **I John 5:4** “*For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*”
- As children of God, we need to realize that if we do not obey then not only will the blessings God has promised us be forfeited, but we will also be punished for our disobedience to His commands.

I. Realize in every decision you make there will be a reward or a consequence.

- A. The Devil has tricked people into believing you can make decisions that make you happy and feel good and it will not impact you, or the lives of people around you.
- i. Immorality – David and Bathsheba
 - ii. Disobeying Parents – Samson
 - iii. Alcohol – Lot and his daughters
 - iv. Disrespecting Authorities – Korah

B. God wants us to realize that every decision we make is our choice and it has a predetermined destination that cannot be changed.

- i. Path of the just. **Prov. 4:18** *“But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.”* – The person who travels on the right path will be able to clearly see life.
- ii. Way of wickedness. **Prov. 4:19** *“The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.”* – Those who choose to follow their flesh will find themselves living a life of constant pain, confusion, and disappointment.

II. Recognize you choose whether you receive a reward or a consequence.

- Notice that in **vs. 26** God did not tell them what decision they had to make, nor did He tell them they would get what’s best by doing what felt good. He simply drew their attention to the end results of each potential decision.
- A. God does not want us to make our decisions based on what looks or seems easier, He wants us to make our decision based on what He has told us is best for us.
- i. Doing wrong takes just as much effort as doing right, the only difference is the end result.
 - a. Recognize, that those who are wise and choose to make the right decision will be able to escape the snares of death. **Prov. 13:13-15** *“Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded. [14] The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death. [15] Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.”*
 - b. Recognize, the end result of the young man in this story. He perished because he made decision without recognizing where the path, he was on would lead. **Prov. 7:6-27**
 - ii. God does not expect or require you to understand why you are to make the decisions He asks you to make, He simply requires your faith to obey.
 - a. Notice God does not explain all the why’s; He simply states the facts. **Prov. 1:15-19**
 - b. Notice God does not explain how soon the consequences come; He simply states what the consequences are. **Prov. 1:24-33**
- B. Satan draws our attention to “the now” and tries to convince people that right now is the only thing that matters.
- i. Jesus’ Temptation – The devil tried to trick Jesus into giving up the eternal for the temporary. **Matt. 4:1-11**
 - a. The Decision **Matt. 4:4,7,10** – To trust in the protection and promises of the Word of God. He believed God would provide something better than what Satan would.
 - b. The Destination **Matt. 4:11** – The Devil left him alone and Jesus was victorious over the devil’s temptations. **James 4:7** *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

