

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this series about sharing from our quiet times you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. We are two teachers and every day during the past week we had a quiet time from 7 selected chapters from DEUTERONOMY. Once a week we come together to share what we have learned from our quiet times. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. Today's topic is A DISCIPLE SHARES WHAT HE LEARNS FROM DEUTERONOMY.

(S) **SHARING FROM SELECTED CHAPTERS FROM DEUTERONOMY**

This past week we have read, meditated and prayed from Deuteronomy 4,5,6,7,8,9 and 10. Now we will use our notes to share important truths and lessons from some of these chapters and discuss some difficult passages.

(T) **Deuteronomy chapter 5.**

We would like to share from Deuteronomy 5:1-22 about the Ten Commandments. This chapter records the ten most important commandments in the world. Today we will share only the last six commandments.

The fifth commandment says, "Honour your father and your mother." *The fifth commandment upholds orderly family life and commands people to honour their parents*. The Old Testament penal law punished transgressors severely. Anyone who cursed or attacked his father or mother had to be put to death (Ex 21:17,15). A stubborn and rebellious son, who did not obey his father and his mother and would not listen to them when they disciplined him, or who lived an immoral, reckless and drunken life, had to be stoned to death (Dt 21:18-21). The Old Testament also gave the name of "father" to rulers, prophets and teachers (Gen 45:8, 2 Ki 2:12). And the man who showed contempt for the judge or the priest, had to be put to death (Dt 17:12). The civil and penal law of Israel during the Old Testament period has been replaced by the teachings of Jesus Christ about the kingdom of God. Thus, although Christians should punish their disobedient children, they may not kill or harm them! In the New Testament children, who are still under age and dependent on their parents, should honour their parents also by obeying them in everything that is not against the Bible (Col 3:20, Eph 6:1-3). When these children have become adults, they are no longer under the obligation to obey their parents, but they remain under the obligation to honour their parents (cf. Lk 41-52 with Mk 3:31-35).

(S) The sixth commandment says, "You shall not murder." *The sixth commandment upholds the sanctity of life and forbids the wilful killing of people*. This prohibition included suicide, because the object killed was not specified. The Old Testament commanded the legality of the death sentence. In Leviticus 24:17 is written, "If anyone takes the life of a human being, he must be put to death". *Intentional killing* was punishable with death. Intentional murderers could not be ransomed by paying a fine or by life imprisonment, because Numbers 35:31 says, "Do not accept a ransom for the life of a murderer, who deserves to die. He must surely be put to death." *Kidnapping* was punishable with death. In Exodus 21:16 is written, "Anyone who kidnaps another and either sells him or still has him when he is caught must be put to death." If a *death occurs through certain situations of neglect*, then the person was guilty. For example, if he neglected to build a parapet around the roof of his house and somebody fell of and died (Dt 22:8) or if he neglected to keep a dangerous animal penned up and it killed another person (Ex 21:28-32), then he was guilty of bloodshed and had to be put to death. However, the death sentence could not be imposed on the *unintentional killing* of persons (Ex 21:12-13). When a death occurred in a situation of *self-defence*, then the person was not guilty. In Exodus 22:2 is written, "If a thief is caught breaking in and is struck so that he dies, the defender is not guilty of bloodshed."

The New Testament upholds the legality of the death sentence. In Romans 13:4 we read that a person in authority in the government "is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing." The death sentence may not be carried out by ordinary citizens, but only by the authority appointed by the government to execute punishment.

During the Old Testament period the penal law of Israel with regard to causing injury was "eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise" (Ex 21:23-25). In the New Testament, Jesus radically changed these penal laws. In Matthew 5:38-42 he says, "Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles." Jesus taught that love overcomes hatred and mercy triumphs over judgement. This teaching of Jesus shows that *the Old Testament moral laws are only partially valid in the New Testament!*

(T) The seventh commandment says, "You shall not commit adultery." *The seventh commandment upholds the marriage institution and forbids all kinds of sexual immorality*. In the Old Testament, sexual immorality *before* marriage was punishable by death (Dt 22:20-21). Sexual immorality *after* marriage was also punishable by death. Both

people who had been involved in *adultery*, had to be killed (Dt 22:22). Leviticus 18 forbade *adultery, incest, homosexuality and bestiality* (6,20,22,23). And Leviticus 20 sentenced all those who commit adultery, incest, homosexuality and bestiality to death (10,13,15,17).

In the New Testament, God himself is the One who will punish the violators of this commandment. In Hebrews 13:4 is written, "Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the *adulterer* and all the *sexual immoral*." *Sexual immorality* is all sex before marriage and *adultery* is all illegal sex outside marriage. The Bible only allows sex inside a legal marriage!

(S) The eighth commandment says, "You shall not steal." *The eighth commandment upholds respect for another person's property*. Although God is the only Owner of all property (1 Chron 29:11-12), he entrusts property to people to manage on his behalf. God forbids *stealing, robbing* and *cheating* (Lev 19:11,13,35,36). The punishment for theft was restitution. Restitution means repaying the double amount, not to the authorities, but to the original owner. In the case where the thief had already destroyed what he had stolen, he had to repay four or five times the original amount (Ex 22:1-15)!

In the New Testament, former thieves are commanded to work with their own hands and even learn to share their possessions with other needy people (Eph 4:28).

(T) The ninth commandment says, "You shall not give false testimony." *The ninth commandment upholds the good name of people*. A person may not tell *lies* or *spread false reports* (Ex 23:1). A person who gave a false testimony, had to be punished with what he intended to do to the other person (Dt 19:18-19). The Old and New Testament also forbids *malicious gossiping* and *slander*.

(S) The tenth commandment says, "You shall not covet." *The tenth commandment forbids wrong desires and ambitions*. The tenth commandment goes further and deeper than ordinary laws of a country, because it deals with the hidden desires and ambitions which lie behind the expression of such wrong desires and ambitions. It shows that God looks at what is in the heart and mind of man. Jeremiah 17:9-10 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, ... to reward a man according to what his deeds deserve." And Hebrews 4:13 says, "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." According to Romans 7:7, God especially uses the tenth commandment to make people aware that they have *depraved desires and ambitions* in their nature and that they cannot control these corrupt desires and ambitions. In this way, God uses the Ten Commandments to lead people to seek salvation outside themselves from God. People cannot be saved by keeping the law (Rom 3:28). Instead, through the law they become conscious of sin (Rom 3:20). That is why Galatians 3:24 says, "The law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith."

(T) Deuteronomy chapter 6.

I would like to share from Deuteronomy 6: 1-9 about raising children. This chapter teaches the responsibility of parents to train their children to walk with God. In Deuteronomy 6:6-9, God teaches parents to have God's commandments on their own hearts and to *impress* these commandments on the minds and lives of their children. He says, "Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates." Parents and children should allow the Word of God to control the *actions* of their hands, the *thoughts* in their minds and the *atmosphere* and *activities* in the home! In Deuteronomy 32:46, God teaches, "Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law". God has given parents the responsibility to train their children *to know God and to obey God*. No governing authority in the world has the right to forbid parents to do this! The Bible is the most important book the children should study throughout their lives.

First. The Bible gives young people knowledge of salvation. In 2 Timothy 3:15 we read, "From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." If a child does not hear the gospel, how can he believe in it? Therefore, parents have the responsibility to explain the gospel to their children at different stages of their child's development, and to give them an opportunity to receive Jesus Christ into their lives! Romans 10:17 teaches that "faith comes by hearing the gospel".

Second. The Bible teaches children truth and trains them how to live righteously. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 we read, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." If a child does not regularly hear the truths of the Bible, how can he trust or obey these truths? Therefore, parents have the responsibility to read and discuss the Bible regularly with their children. The Bible will make children mature and complete human beings and will equip them completely for their calling or task in life.

Third. Practical ways to imprint God's Word on the minds and lives of children. Therefore, parents should train their children to read and study the Bible and especially to obey the Bible. Parents may make use of all kinds of means. They could have a *family Bible time*. The father or mother reads a passage from the Bible and they discuss the passage together with the children. They could have a *family prayer time* (Eph 6:18). They could memorise Bible verses together. When the children are old enough, the parents could teach their children to have *their own quiet time every day*. A family could also *serve Jesus Christ together* in their neighbourhood. By means of these ways, the child can have the same sincere faith as his parents have. In 2 Timothy 1:5 is written, "I have been reminded of your sincere faith which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice". Parents should train the child to grow in faith. Parents should not deny their children experiences in which they must trust the Lord. Also let the child share in the parents' experiences of trusting the Lord.

(S) Deuteronomy chapter 7.

I would like to share from Deuteronomy 7:1-11 about the nations of Canaan. This chapter records the meaning of the annihilation of the original nations living in Canaan.

First. This was a commandment from God. God had promised the land of Canaan as an inheritance to Abraham. Before his descendants entered the land of Canaan God commanded them, "When the Lord God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations ... and when the Lord your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must *destroy them totally*. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy. Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, for they will turn your sons away from following me to serve other gods, and the Lord's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you. This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire. For you are a people holy to the Lord your God."

Second. This commandment was fulfilled in the time of Joshua. Israel under the leadership of Joshua carried out this command stringently. In Joshua chapter 6, Jericho fell and was completely destroyed. Joshua 6:21 says, "They devoted the city to the Lord and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it - men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys." In Joshua chapter 8, all the people who lived in Ai were destroyed and the city was made a permanent heap of ruins. Joshua chapter 9 and 10 describe how Israel destroyed the cities in the south and in the north of Canaan. Joshua 10:22-27 describes how the five Amorite kings were captured. Joshua summoned his army commanders to put their feet on the necks of these kings. He said that this is what the Lord was going to do with all their enemies. He struck and killed these kings, hung them on five trees and finally threw them into a cave.

Third. God commanded the annihilation of the Canaanite nations because of their extreme wickedness. We may ask, "Was all this not needless cruelty or racial discrimination?" Not the book of Joshua, but other parts of the Bible answer this question. Deuteronomy 7:1-11 clearly teaches that it was the Lord himself who commanded Israel to destroy the Canaanite nations. Why? The Canaanite nations were descendants of Canaan, the son of Ham, the son of Noah. They were also called Amorites. They were *very wicked* and *served detestable idols*. God had promised the land Canaan as an inheritance to Abraham's descendants. But in Genesis 15:13-16, God said that it would take a long time before his descendants would possess the land Canaan. One reason was that Abraham's descendants first needed to grow into a large nation. Another reason was that the sin of the Canaanite nations had not yet reached its full measure and God was very patient. God had already warned the wicked Canaanite nation by the destruction of their cities Sodom and Gomorra, but they had not changed a bit (Gen 19). Leviticus chapter 18 describes the sinful practices and detestable customs of the nations in the land of Canaan. They committed *incest, adultery, homosexuality and bestiality* (6,20,22,23). Deuteronomy 12:29-31 describes how these nations did all kinds of detestable things which the Lord hates. They even *burned their children in the fire as sacrifices to their gods*. From Genesis 15:16 and all these other Bible passages, it is clear that God had tolerated the sins and wickedness of these nations for a very long time, and that by the time Israel entered Canaan, the sins of these nations had reached its full measure.

Fourth. The annihilation of the Canaanite nations was a judgement of God. As the righteous Judge of the universe, God himself decreed to annihilate these nations. He used *Israel's army as his instrument of judgement*, just like he used the *flood* to judge the whole world in Genesis 6 and *fire* to judge the cities of Sodom and Gomorra in Genesis 19. The New Testament clearly teaches that it was God himself who drove these nations out of Canaan (Acts 7:45; 13:19). Therefore, *the annihilation of the nations living in Canaan must be regarded as a judgement of God!* It was not racial discrimination and also not racial violence! It was the judgement of God! It was a holy work, exercising the wrath of God over wicked nations. Israel was only God's instrument. Deuteronomy 9:4-6 says that God did not destroy these nations because of Israel's righteousness or integrity, but on account of the wickedness of these nations.

The Christian Church is NOT like Israel, God's instrument of judgement! Therefore, Christians may not use ordinary weapons, but should *use spiritual weapons to fight* sin in their own lives and to fight sin in the world! The use of

spiritual weapons is clearly taught in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 and in Ephesians 6:10-18! Christians may never be involved in any form of racial discrimination nor in any racial riots!

Israel functioned as “a type” for the Christian Church.

One. The Church of Jesus Christ is called to show itself as “the Church militant” within this present world. As far as possible, the Christian Church should fight against all the powers of darkness around her and it should cut off all the remains of sin in her own midst. The Christians must realise that if they fail to exercise their calling to be the Church militant, they will also be excluded from fellowship with God.

Two. The successes and victories of Israel in the Old Testament period serve to encourage the New Testament Church. Although the enemies of the Christian Church are many and very strong, the Christian Church will nevertheless triumph over them wherever she remains faithful to Jesus Christ, keep herself from being polluted by the wicked world and fight in the power of faith only!

(T) ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK

First. Every day have a quiet time from one chapter from Joshua and Judges. The selected chapters are Joshua 1 and Judges 2,7,13,14,15 and 16. Record the meditations of all your quiet times in a notebook. Once a week meet with a friend or with a house fellowship or discipleship group and share your discoveries, lessons and blessings.

Second. See the workbooks “Go and preach God’s kingdom” and Internet on www.dota.net

Third. Listen every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY on the radio to “Discipleship training on the air”.