

LifeLines January 22, 2024

Today's Scripture: 2 Verses

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

**Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.
Recite them to your children & talk about them when you are at home &
when you are away, when you lie down & when you rise.**

WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

CONTEXT

Moses is addressing the Israelites & has just instructed them to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, & with all your soul, & with all your might.” These words are part of the *Shema*, a prayer Jews pray twice a day affirming the oneness of God. It's similar to a confession of faith.

God's people were instructed to memorize, learn, & digest His laws. There was no way for them to take notes; no books to read or refer to, no way to Google His laws if they forgot. They had to *write it on their hearts*, internalize & live by them daily. Teaching the children was to be a continuous thing. Repetition was necessary.

As we go through our notes, let's keep something *very important* in mind. Jesus said *He came not to abolish the law, but to fulfill the law*. He obeyed the law perfectly. The law was given as an instrument for the people not only to obey God, but also to give Him honor & glory. Jesus fulfilled the law. In one respect, we are all still under the law; all have access to grace; but only those who respond to & claim Jesus as Savior will receive grace.

DIFFERENT VERSIONS (Versions not listed are similar to the NRSV.)

CEB (Common English Bible)

These words that I am commanding you today must always be on your minds. Recite them to your children. Talk about them when you are sitting around your house & when you are out & about, when you are lying down & when you are getting up.

CEV (Contemporary English Version)

Memorize His laws & tell them to your children over & over again. Talk about them all the time, whether you're at home or walking along the road or going to bed at night, or getting up in the morning.

GW

Take to heart these words I give you today. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you're at home or away, when you lie down & get up.

MSG

Write these commandments I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you & get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night.

NCV

Always remember these commands I give you today. Teach them to your children, & talk about them when you sit at home & walk along the road, when you lie down & when you get up.

NIRV

The commandments I give you today must be in your hearts. Make sure your children learn them. Talk about them when you are at home. Talk about them when you walk along the road. Speak about them when you go to bed. And speak about them when you get up.

NIV

These commandments I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home & when you walk along the road, when you lie down & when you get up.

NLT

And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again & again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home & when you are on the road, when you are going to bed & when you are getting up.

SELAH

BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

*Keep these words that I am commanding you today...*Our knowledge of God should flow from our heart when we carry the Word of God with us. God calls us to know His Word & His decrees & share them with our family & others.

*in your heart...*Internalizing phrases & verses from God's Word is the best way to know Him & His will for us. Our Christian living should be evidenced in all our activities. The heart carries our memories as well as our mind does. It links with the mind in remembering

& even memorizing. Once something is in our heart, we own it, & it's easy & natural to share it with others.

Recite them to your children... When we were children, there were many things we learned by repetition – constant repetition! Multiplication tables are an example. Children benefit from hearing the same thing over & over, & so do we.

& talk about them when you are at home... God's Word can be incorporated into every aspect of daily life. What are some ways to do that? We can teach & model the importance of honoring God, respecting members of the family, respecting others, & serving others generously & with kindness.

& when you are away... Even away from home, we carry God in our hearts. He never leaves us, & we are never to *leave Him at home* when we get in the car or go for a walk. Wherever we go we can demonstrate love & faithfulness to our beliefs. Our lives can be a demonstration of our commitment to God's ways for us. We are His witnesses.

when you lie down... Meditating on God's Word when we end our day, remembering or reciting verses that are dear to us before we go to sleep – these are positive ways, peaceful ways to bookend the day & prepare for quiet rest. Sitting & lying down suggest inactivity, but our minds can continually be engaged in remembering & meditating on God's Word & His promises.

& when you rise... When we have our first conscious thoughts of the day, how wonderful if they are words of praise, adoration & thanksgiving to God. When His words are written on our hearts & we have internalized them & made them a part of who we are, we please Him & begin the day with confident expectation. Whether walking or resting, the totality of our time can be enhanced by God's Word.

SELAH

RELATED VERSES (What other verses come to your mind?)

Joshua 1:8, This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day & night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, & then you shall be successful.

Deuteronomy 11:18-19, You shall put these words of mine in your heart & soul, & you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, & fix them as an emblem on your forehead. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home & when you are away, when you lie down & when you rise.

Deuteronomy 11:20-21, Write them on the doorposts of your house & on your gates, so that your days & the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the Lord swore to your ancestors to give them as long as the heavens are above the earth.

Deuteronomy 30:14, No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth & in your heart for you to observe.

Deuteronomy 32:46, (Moses) said to them: “Take to heart all the words that I am giving in witness against you today; give them as a command to your children, so that they may diligently observe all the words of this law.”

Psalm 1:2, (Happy are those whose) delight is in the law of the Lord, & on His law they meditate day & night.

Psalm 37:4, Take delight in the Lord, & He will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:30-31, The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom, & their tongues speak justice. The law of their God is in their hearts; their steps do not slip.

Psalm 40:8, I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your law is written within my heart.

Psalm 78:1, Give ear, O My people, to My teaching; incline your ears to the words of My mouth.

Psalm 119:10-13, With my whole heart I seek You; do not let me stray from Your commandments. I treasure Your Word in my heart, so that I may not sin against You. Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.

Psalm 119:30-32, I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set Your ordinances before me. I cling to Your decrees, O Lord; let me not be put to shame. I run the way of Your commandments, for You enlarge my understanding.

Psalm 119:105, Your Word is a lamp to my feet & a light to my path.

Proverbs 3:1-2, My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days & years of life & abundant welfare they will give you.

Proverbs 6:20, My child, keep your father’s commandment, & do not forsake your mother’s teaching.

Proverbs 7:1, My child, keep my words & store up my commandments with you.

Proverbs 22:6, Train children in the right way, & when old, they will not stray.

Isaiah 51:7a, Listen to Me, you who know righteousness, you people who have My teaching in your hearts;

Jeremiah, 31:33, But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law within them, & I will write it on their hearts; & I will be their God, & they shall be My people.

Matthew 5:17, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.”

Matthew 5:19, “Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, & teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them & teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 7:24-25, “Everyone then who hears these words of Mine & acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, & the winds blew & beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.

Matthew 28:20, And teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Luke 6:45, “The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, & the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.”

John 4:24, “God is spirit, & those who worship Him must worship in spirit & in truth.”

Romans 3:31, Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

Romans 7:22, For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self.

Ephesians 6:4, And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline & instruction of the Lord. (Refer to our 1 Timothy verse.)

Ephesians 6:17, Take the helmet of salvation, & the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

1 Peter 3:15, But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

SUMMARY

How well do we know the Bible - The Word of God in the Old & New Testament? Do we wish we knew more, understood more, had more time to read & understand? The people in Moses' time were instructed to know it for themselves & to pass it along to their children & others. Do you have memories of parents or grandparents reading the Bible or Bible stories to you? It's important for everyone to know God's Word so we can strive to live together harmoniously (Oh! That *that* would be the case!) Constantly reflecting on God's Word & His desires for us is the best way to remain faithful to Him.

My primary reason for selecting this verse is to challenge us to do the same thing Moses instructed the Israelites – to keep God's Word in our hearts; to hide it in our hearts. It is one of the most precious & valuable resources we have. When Jesus said He, God the Son,

would be with us always, He referred to God, the Holy Spirit. God, through the Holy Spirit, abides with us through His Word. Paul referred to God's Word as the "sword of the Spirit."

Let's spend plenty of time reading the Bible. Consider committing to memory verses that speak to you the most. There are times in life when we will need to draw on them for strength. In times, when we're alone & need a "word from God," we'll have it – hidden in our heart!

Jesus quoted from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Leviticus, the Psalms & at least 12 prophets, including Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Hosea, Jonah, Micah, Zechariah & Malachi. Quoting scripture was a powerful tool for Jesus. By quoting from OT passages, He put His stamp of approval on what was written & spoken. Prophecies & examples He cited also gave extra meaning & validity to what He said to His listeners. He selected some of the prophecies to show His listeners that *those prophecies were fulfilled in Him*. We modern day "teachers" can use scripture to do the same thing.

A God-focused, faith-based mindset rooted in wisdom & knowledge of God gives us a grounded foundation that will not fall. Such faith has been built on the Rock. God knew His people would be influenced by worldly mindsets. That's why He was so adamant about His people internalizing His ways, His laws, His decrees, His precepts. He never wanted them to be without knowledge of what He knew was best for them. (For extra credit, read Psalm 19:7-11.)

Surely this has happened to you – you've read a Bible passage numerous times without a clear understanding. Then, one day you suddenly grasp its meaning! This is why repetition is so important. Robert Morris (Gateway Church, Dallas, TX) gives a great example of the importance of reading & re-reading scripture, especially passages we feel we've heard time & time again. He said, suppose you sat down to an appetizing steak dinner with salad & potato. Would you say to yourself, "Oh, I'm not going to eat this. I've had this before. I know what it tastes like." Probably not! It's the same way with scripture. We are quite likely to miss a revelation when we take that approach.

CONCLUSION

Obedying God's commands is intended to lead to harmony in the family & in the world. Being morally, socially, personally, emotionally, intellectually & spiritually prepared for life is one of God's desires for us. A Biblical worldview is far from ordinary these days. Much of society is at enmity with God. We're all susceptible to being lured away from God's Word & His intentions for us. The devil continues to prowl around like a lion.

Maybe, we can do something about that. We can recognize the spiritual dangers prevalent in our world. We can speak words of encouragement over ourselves & family members. We can re-incorporate a time of scripture & study into our daily activities & our family's routine. We can make family Bible time part of our day, even if only for a few minutes. We can challenge ourselves & family members to devise a personal plan to enhance our Biblical knowledge. We can make it interesting & fun, *not a chore*. Memorizing & meditating don't have to be dull!

The truth we must share is not only the commands of God but also the gospel of Jesus Christ & why it is *the Way* to everlasting life. Let's protect our hearts & minds & the hearts & minds of our children through the power of God's Word. Let's give them a moral compass from God, *not the world*. God's universal truths are given to us for a reason - that

we may prosper, be successful, not let our steps slip; that we may not sin against God; that we may enjoy length of days, years of life, abundant welfare, be God's people & be called great in the Kingdom of heaven; & always be ready to make a defense to anyone who demands from us an accounting for the hope that is in us. In other words...

that it *may be well with us for all our days.*

**Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.
Recite them to your children & talk about them when you are at home &
when you are away, when you lie down & when you rise.**

Let Deuteronomy 6:6-7 be a *LifeLine* for you!

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –

LifeLine!

Take a minute or two & write something you want to remember about this LifeLine:
