

Joy in the Law and the Law-Giver

(Deuteronomy 5)

Yearly Theme: *“Joy is...”*

Series Title: *Joy in the Wilderness*

February 16th, 2020

Something to think about:

Have you ever just not wanted to do what was right? I know that I have. Maybe it wasn't something major. Maybe it was something small. Maybe you just felt like catching up with the latest gossip at work. Maybe you just didn't want to do something, so you lied to get out of it. Maybe it was just easier to do the wrong thing. Maybe doing the right thing would make you stand out and all you want right now is to fit in.

Doing what is right is so much more than just following a list of rules, it's a lifestyle shift. Sure, God gives us rules. We are going to look at some in a minute. He is the creator of the universe and therefore knows how it is meant to function. He understands us to the core because he created us. Therefore, like a mechanic knows what is best for an engine to make it run the best, or a farmer knows what is best for making the crops grow, so too does God know what we need to run at our peak performance. But it's a relationship, so we must understand and live God's way, even when it is hard, or we are in the wilderness of life. Let's take a look at what guidelines God has laid out, why he did that, and what it all means for you today.

The key point this morning is this...

Key Point: *“Doing the right thing brings joy because it enables freedom.”*

Let's take a look...

Deuteronomy 5:5-22(NLT)

⁵I stood as an intermediary between you and the LORD, for you were afraid of the fire and did not want to approach the mountain. He spoke to me, and I passed his words on to you. This is what he said: ⁶“I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. ⁷You must not have any other god but me. ⁸You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind, or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. ⁹You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. ¹⁰But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those ¹¹who love me and obey my commands. ¹¹You must not misuse the name of the LORD your God. The LORD will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name. ¹²Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. ¹³You have six days each week for your ordinary work, ¹⁴but the seventh

day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the LORD your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your oxen and donkeys and other livestock, and any foreigners living among you. All your male and female servants must rest as you do. ¹⁵Remember that you were once slaves in Egypt, but the LORD your God brought you out with his strong hand and powerful arm. That is why the LORD your God has commanded you to rest on the Sabbath day. ¹⁶Honor your father and mother, as the LORD your God commanded you. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you. ¹⁷You must not murder. ¹⁸You must not commit adultery. ¹⁹You must not steal. ²⁰You must not testify falsely against your neighbor. ²¹You must not covet your neighbor's wife. You must not covet your neighbor's house or land, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor ²²The LORD spoke these words to all of you assembled there at the foot of the mountain. He spoke with a loud voice from the heart of the fire, surrounded by clouds and deep darkness. This was all he said at that time, and he wrote his words on two stone tablets and gave them to me.”

How is this evidenced in this passage of Scripture today? Well, the Israelites were reminded of a few things...

1. We must acknowledge God as _____.
2. We must acknowledge ourselves as _____.
3. We must acknowledge the _____ and the _____ they should play in our lives.

Something to take home:

Where are you today? We all have our own struggles but there are many of us who struggle with doing what is right. Some of us just aren't sure what is right: we choose to ignore what God tells us, or we simply don't know. Some of us are scared that if we do the right thing, we might end up being isolated from friends and family. Some of us are in the wilderness and we are bitter or scared and doing the right thing is so far from our minds. Some of us here today know what is right but simply choose to do what is wrong and we have been doing that for a really long time. So what do we do?

First, start each day off by acknowledging who God is. This is as easy as actually speaking it each morning. This will radically change your daily perspective. Second, know what God says. You can't understand the guidelines God has set out for you and live them out if you don't spend time in God's word. Finally, and most importantly, bring God into your decision making. Ask what He would want from you in every situation, you won't always be successful and sometimes things will be harder than others, but it will get easier as time goes on and you become more and more aligned with Christ.

Key Point: *“Doing the right thing brings joy because it enables freedom.”*

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