

Text: Deuteronomy 11

Title: "If you earnestly obey My commandments"

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. We all have failures in our past
2. But if you were given a second chance to succeed, how would you approach it?
3. The whole context of the book of Deuteronomy
  - a. The failure of the previous generation to enter the promised land
  - b. The challenge of the present generation to succeed
4. Appreciating Deuteronomy 11
  - a. It functions like a summary
  - b. It highlights key points from the first 10 chapters that stand out
  - c. These key points provide us with the principles for success

## **A SENSE OF HISTORY**

*<sup>2</sup> Know today that I do not speak with your children, who have not known and who have not seen the chastening of the LORD your God, His greatness and His mighty hand and His outstretched arm— <sup>3</sup> His signs and His acts which He did in the midst of Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all his land; <sup>4</sup> what He did to the army of Egypt, to their horses and their chariots: how He made the waters of the Red Sea overflow them as they pursued you, and how the LORD has destroyed them to this day; <sup>5</sup> what He did for you in the wilderness until you came to this place; <sup>6</sup> and what He did to Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, their households, their tents, and all the substance that was in their possession, in the midst of all Israel— <sup>7</sup> but your eyes have seen every great act of the LORD which He did.*

*Deuteronomy 11:2-7*

1. Addressing the previous generation
  - a. “I do not speak with your children, who have not known and who have not seen...” Deuteronomy 11:2a
  - b. “But your eyes have seen every great act of the LORD which He did” Deuteronomy 11:7a
2. They are to recall significant lessons from the past
  - a. The LORD their God Deuteronomy 11:2b
    - i. His greatness, His mighty hand, His outstretched arm
    - ii. His great acts done
  - b. Significant acts of the LORD their God
    - i. The plagues done in Egypt against Pharaoh Deuteronomy 11:3
    - ii. The crossing of the Red Sea and the destruction of the Egyptian army Deuteronomy 11:4
    - iii. The wilderness period Deuteronomy 11:5
    - iv. The chastening of Israel – the example of Dathan and Abiram highlighted Deuteronomy 11:6
  - c. “Your eyes have seen” Deuteronomy 11:7b
    - i. They had seen all these things
    - ii. They were to pass down these lessons to their children
3. For the present generation
  - a. They are to receive these lessons and gain a sense of history
    - i. Learning from the past
    - ii. Looking forward to a better future

- b. The LORD their God lies at the center of it all
  - i. He will help them accomplish the task of entering the promised land
  - ii. His mighty power will enable them

### **A SECOND CHANCE TO SUCCEED**

<sup>8</sup> *“Therefore you shall keep every commandment which I command you today, that you may be strong, and go in and possess the land which you cross over to possess,<sup>9</sup> and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD swore to give your fathers, to them and their descendants, ‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’<sup>10</sup> For the land which you go to possess is not like the land of Egypt from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and watered it by foot, as a vegetable garden;<sup>11</sup> but the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven,<sup>12</sup> a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.*

*Deuteronomy 11:8-12*

1. The first generation failed to enter the land
2. They now had a chance to succeed Deuteronomy 11:8  
To be strong, go in and possess the land
3. The land they would inherit would be even better than Egypt
  - a. Egypt was likened to a vegetable garden Deuteronomy 11:10
  - b. Whereas this land is a land for which the LORD their God cares Deuteronomy 11:12
4. Question: How could they succeed?

### **THE “SECRET” OF SUCCESS**

<sup>13</sup> *‘And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul,<sup>14</sup> then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.<sup>15</sup> And I will send grass in your fields*

*for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.’<sup>16</sup> Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them,<sup>17</sup> lest the LORD’s anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you.*

#### *Deuteronomy 11:13-17*

1. By comprehending their part in this covenantal relationship with the LORD their God
2. A covenant has two parts
  - a. God’s part
  - b. Our part
  - c. God will do His part if we fulfil our part (“if, then” clause)
3. Key components that are required on our part
  - a. If we earnestly obey the commandments of the LORD      Deuteronomy 11:13a
  - b. To love the LORD our God      Deuteronomy 11:13b
  - c. And to serve Him with all our heart and with all our soul      Deuteronomy 11:13c

#### **HOW WE CAN SUSTAIN A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD OUR GOD**

*<sup>18</sup> “Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>19</sup> You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. <sup>20</sup> And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, <sup>21</sup> that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.*

#### *Deuteronomy 11:18-21*

1. By laying up His words in our heart and in our soul      Deuteronomy 11:18a
2. Personal efforts (creative efforts)      Deuteronomy 11:18b-20



- b. We can look forward to a better future
  - c. But we must do our part
3. Give attention to the things that will help us succeed
- a. Earnestly obey the LORD
  - b. Love Him
  - c. Serve Him with all our heart and soul
  - d. Lay up His Word in our heart
4. Make a significant choice
- a. To obey the LORD and His Word
  - b. To seek God's blessing
  - c. To succeed finally