

## A Funeral and a Birth

## Deuteronomy

Have you ever thought about your funeral? Where... Who... When... Why...

Have you ever thought about the “what” of your funeral? What would the focus be? - of the words spoken, the message, the songs, the memories, etc.

Would it be all about you, or would it be about something/someone else?

We have reached the last book of the Pentateuch, written by Moses! Deuteronomy in the Hebrew means “These are the words!” What words?

These are the parting words of Moses before his death! His last 3 messages to the people! His last will & testament – what he leaves behind for Israel!

Moses had the opportunity to speak these words knowing that his funeral was near! If we were privy to such information ourselves, what would we choose to say? What would be our final words? Where would the focus be?

For Moses, he was not concerned with the “where” of his funeral/burial, or “who” would show up, or “when” it would be, & he already knew the “why”

Moses was most concerned about the legacy, the “what”, that would not just be left behind, but also be that which would lead God’s people forward!

You see, Moses’ death marked both an end & a beginning! As God buried Moses in the desert, a new nation was being birthed in the promised land!

Moses cared more about the future legacy of God’s people than he did about his own! Deuteronomy makes that clear in Moses’ parting words!

### A self-written eulogy by Moses:

- **Remember** – not the things I (Moses) have done, but remember the things God has done! Remember how He has delivered us! Remember His faithfulness! Remember our own brokenness! Remember our wilderness wandering history, or we will be destined again to repeat it!

**Deuteronomy 5:15** – “You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.”

**Deuteronomy 32:7** – Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you.”

Sometimes the sharing of remembrances can be just as powerful of a message, or more so, than a sermon given by a pastor! Remember...

- **Return** – to the Lord! It’s only in a right relationship with God that His blessings, & our obedience are found! Our choice to obey, or disobey God, is directly tied to the status of our relationship with Him! There are really only 2 paths to choose from, the path w/God, & the path w/out God!

**Deuteronomy 30:1-8** – 78 times in Deuteronomy Moses speaks of “blessings & curses” for the purpose of calling the people to return!

- **Repeat** – that the Lord is our God, the Lord is one! There is no other! Once our relationship with God is restored by returning to Him, we are to speak God’s promises to one another continually - starting in our homes!

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9** - “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

There is staying power in repetition - tests, music, sports, habits, etc. If we simply made a habit of speaking the promises of God to one another on a regular basis, what fruit might that produce in our lives?

The Shema, **Deut. 6:4-9**, was/is still repeated by Jews in their morning & evening prayers. What if we too repeated these words regularly?

- **Renew** – the covenant relationship between us and God! We believe that the promises, that we speak & repeat to one another from God’s Word, will come to fruition because God is faithful to His covenant!

**Deuteronomy 29:1-13** Our past failures can truly be the past if we renew our covenantal commitment to God today!

Moses cared about the future of God’s people, more than he cared about the legacy of his own name! Can the same be said of us? Which of “these words” need to be addressed in our lives so that we too can focus more on the everlasting Kingdom of God, than on the mere number of our days?

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