

Chapter 10: Land a Bull's Eye, Change the World

Dig Deeper:

Passage: Read Deuteronomy 6:23-25

He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land which He had sworn to our fathers. So the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God for our good always and for our survival, as it is today. It will be righteousness for us if we are careful to observe all this commandment before the LORD our God, just as He commanded us.

Over the past ten weeks, we've covered quite a bit of territory through the example provided by the Israelites, as well as the greatest Parent and disciple-Maker of all time. I hope you now understand more fully how *grace* and *faith-based works*, in response to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, are both a necessary part of the Christian life if we (along with our families) want to partake in the glorious rewards offered in return! Salvation is certainly a free gift offered at the point of belief, but obedience is the next required step in going toward the special inheritance of reigning in the soon coming thousand-year Kingdom with Jesus!

So now we are faced with a choice. Will we accept the commission and run "the race," not stopping until we cross the finish line? Will we continue the journey from *Passover*, through *Pentecost* until we reach the glorious *Tabernacles*? It is so very important to understand that this is not about thinking up works to do for God, or a duty sort of relationship where we just do whatever is necessary or required to get a reward. *This is about relationship and deeper fellowship with God as "sons."* **This is about deciding first and foremost that Jesus IS our REWARD and then responding to His work in our lives.** Here is the crux of what it means to follow Pentecost to Tabernacles within our daily lives:

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:36-40

Living in this kind of all-consuming love relationship with our Heavenly Father is the key to life—abundant life NOW and everlasting life LATER. Therefore, we've been offered *the choice*.

"See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it. But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You will not prolong your days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in

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the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."
Deuteronomy 30:15-20.

“The land” promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, was NOT foreshadowing “eternity” as we know it and have been taught. It was foreshadowing the Millennial Kingdom as their reward for obedience, as we read in the verses above. It was BOTH faith in God and then showing love through obedience. I want to make it completely clear that no one enters into the eternal Kingdom of God for eternity by “works,” but only by faith in Jesus Christ. Paul states that several times. Since the days of the Mosaic Covenant, there has been a distinction.

Wrapping up:

We just covered several months worth of in-depth Bible study in a few weeks. Now (hopefully) you have an overview of an unfolding Biblical story (it even gets bigger!) and renewed purpose that can give more meaning and excitement in the way we approach personal holiness, teach our children, share the Gospel, and grow deeper in the knowledge and understanding of the Word. I hope you will continue to study out these topics as a family. There are so many wonderful resources available online today, including Bible study tools. And feel free to check back on the website for Bible commentary in the near future. Thank you so much for joining me!

For more learning on Hebrew perspectives on Scripture, be sure to check out Messianic teacher Mark Biltz at ElShaddaiMinistries.us. His Feast DVDS and notes are simply astounding! I know this is deep, but it is truly the foundation that begins to tie the Scriptures together.

I also recommend StudyLight.org as a jumping off place for Bible study tools. You will find parallel passages, a Hebrew and Greek Concordance for looking up verses yourself in the original text, and many other features.

If you want *The Experience*, be sure to check back soon for my Bible Commentary, being updated and posted gradually, beginning with Genesis.

Group Interaction:

- Today is testimony time. Feel free to share with the group any important truths you have gleaned from the book or the study, and how you plan to use them in your home.
- Share how your thinking or perspectives have changed for the better.
- Be sure to let the author know how she could improve this study to be more relevant to your needs as a parent!
- Would you take a moment this week to recommend this study to other friends, groups, or churches you know about that would benefit from this study?

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Bring it Home:

Jesus taught His disciple to BE THE HERO (heal, risk, share the Gospel, do miracles)...

Day 1: Read Matthew 10:22

“You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.”

Day 2: Read Matthew 21:21-22

And Jesus answered and said to them, “Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ it will happen. And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”

Day 3: Read John 6:35

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”

Day 4: Read Matthew 10:7-8

“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.”

Day 5: Read Matthew 10:32-33

“Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.”

Day 6: Read Mark 16:15-18

And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Day 7: Read John 14:12-14

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.”