

**Monday, March 25**

**All passages taken from Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996.  
Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189.  
All rights reserved.21**

**Deuteronomy 4:1 - 49**

**4 1** “And now, Israel, listen carefully to these decrees and regulations that I am about to teach you. Obey them so that you may live, so you may enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you.**2** Do not add to or subtract from these commands I am giving you. Just obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you. **3** “You saw for yourself what the LORD did to you at Baal-peor. There the LORD your God destroyed everyone who had worshiped Baal, the god of Peor. **4** But all of you who were faithful to the LORD your God are still alive today—every one of you. **5** “Look, I now teach you these decrees and regulations just as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy. **6** Obey them completely, and you will display your wisdom and intelligence among the surrounding nations. When they hear all these decrees, they will exclaim, ‘How wise and prudent are the people of this great nation!’ **7** For what great nation has a god as near to them as the LORD our God is near to us whenever we call on him?**8** And what great nation has decrees and regulations as righteous and fair as this body of instructions that I am giving you today? **9** “But watch out! Be careful never to forget what you yourself have seen. Do not let these memories escape from your mind as long as you live! And be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren. **10** Never forget the day when you stood before the LORD your God at Mount Sinai, where he told me, ‘Summon the people before me, and I will personally instruct them. Then they will learn to fear me as long as they live, and they will teach their children to fear me also.’ **11** “You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while flames from the mountain shot into the sky. The mountain was shrouded in black clouds and deep darkness. **12** And the LORD spoke to you from the heart of the fire. You heard the sound of his words but didn’t see his form; there was only a voice. **13** He proclaimed his covenant—the Ten Commandments—which he commanded you to keep, and which he wrote on two stone tablets. **14** It was at that time that the LORD commanded me to teach you his decrees and regulations so you would obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy. **15** “But be very careful! You did not see the LORD’s form on the day he spoke to you from the heart of the fire at Mount Sinai. **16** So do not corrupt yourselves by making an idol in any form—whether of a man or a woman, **17** an animal on the ground, a bird in the sky, **18** a small animal that scurries along the ground, or a fish in the deepest sea. **19** And when you look up into the sky and see the sun, moon, and stars—all the forces of heaven—don’t be seduced into worshiping them.

The LORD your God gave them to all the peoples of the earth. **20** Remember that the LORD rescued you from the iron-smelting furnace of Egypt in order to make you his very own people and his special possession, which is what you are today. **21** “But the LORD was angry with me because of you. He vowed that I would not cross the Jordan River into the good land the LORD your God is giving you as your special possession. **22** You will cross the Jordan to occupy the land, but I will not. Instead, I will die here on the east side of the river. **23** So be careful not to break the covenant the LORD your God has made with you. Do not make idols of any shape or form, for the LORD your God has forbidden this. **24** The LORD your God is a devouring fire; he is a jealous God. **25** “In the future, when you have children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time, do not corrupt yourselves by making idols of any kind. This is evil in the sight of the LORD your God and will arouse his anger. **26** “Today I call on heaven and earth as witnesses against you. If you break my covenant, you will quickly disappear from the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy. You will live there only a short time; then you will be utterly destroyed. **27** For the LORD will scatter you among the nations, where only a few of you will survive. **28** There, in a foreign land, you will worship idols made from wood and stone—gods that neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. **29** But from there you will search again for the LORD your God. And if you search for him with all your heart and soul, you will find him. **30** “In the distant future, when you are suffering all these things, you will finally return to the LORD your God and listen to what he tells you. **31** For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon you or destroy you or forget the solemn covenant he made with your ancestors. **32** “Now search all of history, from the time God created people on the earth until now, and search from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything as great as this ever been seen or heard before? **33** Has any nation ever heard the voice of God speaking from fire—as you did—and survived? **34** Has any other god dared to take a nation for himself out of another nation by means of trials, miraculous signs, wonders, war, a strong hand, a powerful arm, and terrifying acts? Yet that is what the LORD your God did for you in Egypt, right before your eyes. **35** “He showed you these things so you would know that the LORD is God and there is no other. **36** He let you hear his voice from heaven so he could instruct you. He let you see his great fire here on earth so he could speak to you from it. **37** Because he loved your ancestors, he chose to bless their descendants, and he personally brought you out of Egypt with a great display of power. **38** He drove out nations far greater than you, so he could bring you in and give you their land as your special possession, as it is today. **39** “So remember this and keep it firmly in mind: The LORD is God both in heaven and on earth, and there is no other. **40** If you obey all the decrees and commands I am giving you today, all will be well with you and your children. I am giving you these instructions so you will enjoy a long life in the land the LORD your God is giving you for all time.” **41** Then Moses set apart three cities of refuge east of the

Jordan River. **42** Anyone who killed another person unintentionally, without previous hostility, could flee there to live in safety. **43** These were the cities: Bezer on the wilderness plateau for the tribe of Reuben; Ramoth in Gilead for the tribe of Gad; Golan in Bashan for the tribe of Manasseh. **44** This is the body of instruction that Moses presented to the Israelites. **45** These are the laws, decrees, and regulations that Moses gave to the people of Israel when they left Egypt, **46** and as they camped in the valley near Beth-peor east of the Jordan River. (This land was formerly occupied by the Amorites under King Sihon, who ruled from Heshbon. But Moses and the Israelites destroyed him and his people when they came up from Egypt. **47** Israel took possession of his land and that of King Og of Bashan—the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan. **48** So Israel conquered the entire area from Aroer at the edge of the Arnon Gorge all the way to Mount Sirion, also called Mount Hermon. **49** And they conquered the eastern bank of the Jordan River as far south as the Dead Sea, below the slopes of Pisgah.)

#### **Luke 6:39 - 7:10**

**6 39** Then Jesus gave the following illustration: “Can one blind person lead another? Won’t they both fall into a ditch? **40** Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher. **41** “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? **42** How can you think of saying, ‘Friend, let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye. **43** “A good tree can’t produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can’t produce good fruit. **44** A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. **45** A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart. **46** “So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say? **47** I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. **48** It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. **49** But anyone who hears and doesn’t obey is like a person who builds a house without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.”

**7 1** When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people, he returned to Capernaum. **2** At that time the highly valued slave of a Roman officer was sick and near death. **3** When the officer

heard about Jesus, he sent some respected Jewish elders to ask him to come and heal his slave. **4** So they earnestly begged Jesus to help the man. “If anyone deserves your help, he does,” they said, **5** “for he loves the Jewish people and even built a synagogue for us.” **6** So Jesus went with them. But just before they arrived at the house, the officer sent some friends to say, “Lord, don’t trouble yourself by coming to my home, for I am not worthy of such an honor. **7** I am not even worthy to come and meet you. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. **8** I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, ‘Go,’ and they go, or ‘Come,’ and they come. And if I say to my slaves, ‘Do this,’ they do it.” **9** When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to the crowd that was following him, he said, “I tell you, I haven’t seen faith like this in all Israel!” **10** And when the officer’s friends returned to his house, they found the slave completely healed.

#### **Psalms 68:1 - 18**

**68 1** Rise up, O God, and scatter your enemies. Let those who hate God run for their lives. **2** Blow them away like smoke. Melt them like wax in a fire. Let the wicked perish in the presence of God. **3** But let the godly rejoice. Let them be glad in God’s presence. Let them be filled with joy. **4** Sing praises to God and to his name! Sing loud praises to him who rides the clouds. His name is the LORD — rejoice in his presence! **5** Father to the fatherless, defender of widows— this is God, whose dwelling is holy. **6** God places the lonely in families; he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy. But he makes the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land. **7** O God, when you led your people out from Egypt, when you marched through the dry wasteland, Interlude **8** the earth trembled, and the heavens poured down rain before you, the God of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel. **9** You sent abundant rain, O God, to refresh the weary land. **10** There your people finally settled, and with a bountiful harvest, O God, you provided for your needy people. **11** The Lord gives the word, and a great army brings the good news. **12** Enemy kings and their armies flee, while the women of Israel divide the plunder. **13** Even those who lived among the sheepfolds found treasures— doves with wings of silver and feathers of gold. **14** The Almighty scattered the enemy kings like a blowing snowstorm on Mount Zalmon. **15** The mountains of Bashan are majestic, with many peaks stretching high into the sky. **16** Why do you look with envy, O rugged mountains, at Mount Zion, where God has chosen to live, where the LORD himself will live forever? **17** Surrounded by unnumbered thousands of chariots, the Lord came from Mount Sinai into his sanctuary. **18** When you

ascended to the heights, you led a crowd of captives. You received gifts from the people, even from those who rebelled against you. Now the LORD God will live among us there.

**Proverbs 11:28**

**11 28** Trust in your money and down you go! But the godly flourish like leaves in spring.