

Wednesday, March 27

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Deuteronomy 7:1 - 8:20

7 1 “When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are about to enter and occupy, he will clear away many nations ahead of you: the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. These seven nations are greater and more numerous than you. **2** When the LORD your God hands these nations over to you and you conquer them, you must completely destroy them. Make no treaties with them and show them no mercy. **3** You must not intermarry with them. Do not let your daughters and sons marry their sons and daughters,**4** for they will lead your children away from me to worship other gods. Then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and he will quickly destroy you. **5** This is what you must do. You must break down their pagan altars and shatter their sacred pillars. Cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols. **6** For you are a holy people, who belong to the LORD your God. Of all the people on earth, the LORD your God has chosen you to be his own special treasure. **7** “The LORD did not set his heart on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other nations, for you were the smallest of all nations! **8** Rather, it was simply that the LORD loves you, and he was keeping the oath he had sworn to your ancestors. That is why the LORD rescued you with such a strong hand from your slavery and from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. **9** Understand, therefore, that the LORD your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands. **10** But he does not hesitate to punish and destroy those who reject him. **11** Therefore, you must obey all these commands, decrees, and regulations I am giving you today.**12** “If you listen to these regulations and faithfully obey them, the LORD your God will keep his covenant of unfailing love with you, as he promised with an oath to your ancestors. **13** He will love you and bless you, and he will give you many children. He will give fertility to your land and your animals. When you arrive in the land he swore to give your ancestors, you will have large harvests of grain, new wine, and olive oil, and great herds of cattle, sheep, and goats. **14** You will be blessed above all the nations of the earth. None of your men or women will be childless, and all your livestock will bear young. **15** And the LORD will protect you from all sickness. He will not let you suffer from the terrible diseases you knew in Egypt, but he will inflict them on all your enemies! **16** “You must destroy all the nations the LORD your God hands over to you. Show them no mercy, and do not worship their gods, or they will trap you. **17** Perhaps you will think to yourselves, ‘How can we

ever conquer these nations that are so much more powerful than we are?’ **18** But don’t be afraid of them! Just remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all the land of Egypt. **19** Remember the great terrors the LORD your God sent against them. You saw it all with your own eyes! And remember the miraculous signs and wonders, and the strong hand and powerful arm with which he brought you out of Egypt. The LORD your God will use this same power against all the people you fear. **20** And then the LORD your God will send terror to drive out the few survivors still hiding from you! **21** “No, do not be afraid of those nations, for the LORD your God is among you, and he is a great and awesome God. **22** The LORD your God will drive those nations out ahead of you little by little. You will not clear them away all at once, otherwise the wild animals would multiply too quickly for you. **23** But the LORD your God will hand them over to you. He will throw them into complete confusion until they are destroyed. **24** He will put their kings in your power, and you will erase their names from the face of the earth. No one will be able to stand against you, and you will destroy them all. **25** “You must burn their idols in fire, and you must not covet the silver or gold that covers them. You must not take it or it will become a trap to you, for it is detestable to the LORD your God. **26** Do not bring any detestable objects into your home, for then you will be destroyed, just like them. You must utterly detest such things, for they are set apart for destruction.

8 1 “Be careful to obey all the commands I am giving you today. Then you will live and multiply, and you will enter and occupy the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors. **2** Remember how the LORD your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands. **3** Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. **4** For all these forty years your clothes didn’t wear out, and your feet didn’t blister or swell. **5** Think about it: Just as a parent disciplines a child, the LORD your God disciplines you for your own good. **6** “So obey the commands of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and fearing him. **7** For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land of flowing streams and pools of water, with fountains and springs that gush out in the valleys and hills. **8** It is a land of wheat and barley; of grapevines, fig trees, and pomegranates; of olive oil and honey. **9** It is a land where food is plentiful and nothing is lacking. It is a land where iron is as common as stone, and copper is abundant in the hills. **10** When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. **11** “But that is the time to be careful! Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the LORD your God and disobey his commands, regulations, and decrees that I am giving you today. **12** For when you have become full and

prosperous and have built fine homes to live in, **13** and when your flocks and herds have become very large and your silver and gold have multiplied along with everything else, be careful! **14** Do not become proud at that time and forget the LORD your God, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt. **15** Do not forget that he led you through the great and terrifying wilderness with its poisonous snakes and scorpions, where it was so hot and dry. He gave you water from the rock! **16** He fed you with manna in the wilderness, a food unknown to your ancestors. He did this to humble you and test you for your own good. **17** He did all this so you would never say to yourself, ‘I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.’ **18** Remember the LORD your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath. **19** “But I assure you of this: If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods, worshiping and bowing down to them, you will certainly be destroyed. **20** Just as the LORD has destroyed other nations in your path, you also will be destroyed if you refuse to obey the LORD your God.

Luke 7:36 - 8:3

7 36 One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. **37** When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. **38** Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them. **39** When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She’s a sinner!” **40** Then Jesus answered his thoughts. “Simon,” he said to the Pharisee, “I have something to say to you.” “Go ahead, Teacher,” Simon replied. **41** Then Jesus told him this story: “A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. **42** But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?” **43** Simon answered, “I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt.” “That’s right,” Jesus said. **44** Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn’t offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. **45** You didn’t greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. **46** You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume. **47** “I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.” **48** Then Jesus said to the

woman, “Your sins are forgiven.” **49** The men at the table said among themselves, “Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?” **50** And Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

8 1 Soon afterward Jesus began a tour of the nearby towns and villages, preaching and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He took his twelve disciples with him, **2** along with some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases. Among them were Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons; **3** Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod’s business manager; Susanna; and many others who were contributing from their own resources to support Jesus and his disciples.

Psalms 69:1 - 18

69 1 Save me, O God, for the floodwaters are up to my neck. **2** Deeper and deeper I sink into the mire; I can’t find a foothold. I am in deep water, and the floods overwhelm me. **3** I am exhausted from crying for help; my throat is parched. My eyes are swollen with weeping, waiting for my God to help me. **4** Those who hate me without cause outnumber the hairs on my head. Many enemies try to destroy me with lies, demanding that I give back what I didn’t steal. **5** O God, you know how foolish I am; my sins cannot be hidden from you. **6** Don’t let those who trust in you be ashamed because of me, O Sovereign LORD of Heaven’s Armies. Don’t let me cause them to be humiliated, O God of Israel. **7** For I endure insults for your sake; humiliation is written all over my face. **8** Even my own brothers pretend they don’t know me; they treat me like a stranger. **9** Passion for your house has consumed me, and the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me. **10** When I weep and fast, they scoff at me. **11** When I dress in burlap to show sorrow, they make fun of me. **12** I am the favorite topic of town gossip, and all the drunks sing about me. **13** But I keep praying to you, LORD, hoping this time you will show me favor. In your unfailing love, O God, answer my prayer with your sure salvation. **14** Rescue me from the mud; don’t let me sink any deeper! Save me from those who hate me, and pull me from these deep waters. **15** Don’t let the floods overwhelm me, or the deep waters swallow me, or the pit of death devour me. **16** Answer my prayers, O LORD, for your unfailing love is wonderful. Take care of me, for your mercy is so plentiful. **17** Don’t hide from your servant; answer me quickly, for I am in deep trouble! **18** Come and redeem me; free me from my enemies.

Proverbs 12:1

12 1 To learn, you must love discipline; it is stupid to hate correction.