

Blessings of Obedience

God is a wise, loving Father who wants the best for His children. And part of what He wants for us is to bless us! It was His heart to bless the children of Israel as well. Today we come to Deuteronomy 28, where God lays out the principle of blessings for obeying and consequences for disobey the covenant. It is a passage that is vital for understanding how God dealt with Israel under the Old Covenant. The rest of the Old Testament reveals this principle in operation. Though we now live under the New Covenant through Christ, the principle of blessing for obedience continues. God communicates His will to us because He loves us and wants us to obey Him so that He can bless us.

Read Deuteronomy 27:1-2, 9-10; 28:1-14

1. What is God promising in this passage to the children of Israel? In what areas and ways does God say He will bless them?
2. What do verses 1, 9-10 communicate about God's ultimate vision for His people brought about by His blessings in their lives?
3. How do you see the conditional nature of God's blessings expressed in this passage?

Read John 14:15, 21; 15:7-11

4. In what way is Jesus' teaching here similar to the passage in Deuteronomy?
5. According to these verses, what are the blessings of obedience?

Read Matthew 7:24-27

6. How do we see the principle of blessing for obedience reflected in this teaching by Jesus (note: this teaching comes after Jesus just taught on obedience in a number of different areas of life)? What is the blessing that Jesus talks about in this teaching?
7. "God's blessing in our lives is conditional." Agree or Disagree? Why?
8. What is an area of obedience that is especially relevant to your life right now? And what would obedience look like in that area?
9. How might obedience in this area invite God's blessing/benefit/reward? In other words, can you imagine ways that your life would be better if you obeyed in this area?