

J.J.

THE FAITHFUL GOD
Deuteronomy 7:6-9

Deuteronomy 7: 6 For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

7 The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

Pray

Every Sunday, I always greet you with “God is good.” And you answer, “All the time” and then I say, “All the time”, you reply with “God is good.”

We remember the God is good part which is good. But when we reply, “All the time”, we are declaring not only that God is good but God is faithful.

INTRODUCTION :

Disciples of Christ Fellowship is 14 years old already this year by God's grace. We celebrate our anniversary during Resurrection Sunday but we started gathering together **formally as a church on March 1, 2009.**

Several changes through the years. People who had no wrinkles and now have wrinkles. People with full hair and now with no hair.

We have seen people grow. Children who have turned to adults.

Brothers and sisters who came and went. **People we love who have gone home to the Lord** like Tatay Ding, Nanay Luning, Nanay Tuning, Tatay Jess and of course, Janette.

And now, we are now in this new place. In 14 years, we have gone from the library, to a school gym, to the music room and the pandemic hit and for 3 years, we are on-line, and then we slowly went back and we started again slowly at Seasons Mall, then we were at 1 Maple, then now Guided Court and then this place.

Sometimes, I feel like the Israelite who are in the desert waiting to cross the Promised Land. But at the end of the day, our Promised Land is not here. It is the time when our Lord Jesus comes back again and we'll spend eternity with Him. He is our Promised Land.

John 14 : 1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

**In the meantime,
IT'S GOOD TO REMEMBER, THAT GOD IS FAITHFUL.**

That's what we're going to talk about today based on Deuteronomy 7.

Quick Background on Deuteronomy :

- It was written by Moses.
- This was like the last sermons of Moses with instructions and reminders
- Moses knows he won't be able to enter the Promised Land because God told him so.

Why? We have to remember that Moses foreshadowed the work of Jesus (John 3:14-15). In Hebrews 11, it showed that he was a man of faith. The Bible says that he was a humble man (Numbers 12:3) More humble than any man. God Himself talked to Moses and He knew Moses face to face. God Himself buried Moses. . (Deuteronomy 34)

- But the reason why Moses wasn't allowed to enter the Promised Land is the time when in a fit of anger and pride, he struck the rock to produce water when God told him to just speak to the rock. Note, the people were complaining again to Moses and Aaron that they had no water.

So they prayed to the Lord and the Lord said to speak to the rock and water would come out of the rock. **Here's what happened?**

Numbers 20: 10 Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" 11 And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock.

We might think that it's a simple thing and that's the reason why God did not allow Him to enter the Promised Land. It's not...

- First, Moses disobeyed a clear command. (Which shows, God takes obedience seriously)
- He took the glory from the Lord

"Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?"

- He did it out of anger. He did not only strike it once but twice.

At the end of the day, God allowed Moses to see the Promised Land and not enter it. And in the New Testament, you will see Moses again in the Transfiguration with our Lord Jesus Christ.

So having that background, Moses knowing that he won't be able to lead the people to the Promised Land and God already told him to assign Joshua, he gave them these instructions and also REMINDERS.

GOD IS FAITHFUL. WE ARE HIS POSSESSION, HE HAS SET HIS AFFECTION ON US AND WE ARE PROMISED HIS PROVISION.

It's good to put this in our mind. I know he's talking about the Israelites here but the principles can also be applied to us.

I. WE ARE GOD'S POSSESSION

6 For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

It's good to remember, that we belong to God. What does that mean?

1. We were set apart for Himself.

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God

Note : If you heard the sermon last Sunday with FCC, by God's grace, I explained the meaning of the word "holy"

Etymology : kawdosh (Hebrew) – separated, set apart; setting apart for a special purpose

Illustration : Remember the McDonald's commercial in the Philippines?

There was this granddaughter whose name was Karen and his grandfather who were inside the restaurant. Karen, the granddaughter bought a burger for her grandfather who was suffering from dementia. So Karen with tray of food arrived at the table and gave the burger to her grandfather. The grandfather asked, "Saan ka ba galing Gina?" (Where have you been Gina?) (Remember the granddaughter's name was Karen) Karen answered, "Lolo Karen po." (Reminder him that his name was Karen not Gina). And then the grandfather followed up, "Kasi, ang tagal na nating hindi nagkikita Gina." (It's because I haven't seen you for quite sometime Gina.) And then Karen looked annoyed. The grandfather then mentions again, "O sige kain na Gina." (Ok go ahead and eat Gina). Karen annoyingly now says, "Karen po." (I'm Karen). But then Karen notices that his grandfather was cutting the burger in half and then wrapping it. She became curious until she heard her grandfather saying, "Ito (pointing to the burger) para sa paborito kong apo, si Karen".. "This is for my favorite grandchild, Karen". And then Karen smiled.

That's the meaning of being holy. We were separated by God for a special purpose.

You know what is that purpose? **We are separated/ set apart for Jesus Christ.**

John 17: 6 "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.

Remember we now belong to Jesus Christ. The church is His bride.

And again, being holy means being set apart for a higher purpose and what is that purpose?

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Our lives should give glory to our Lord Jesus Christ. THAT'S THE REASON GOD SEPARATED US FOR OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. Our very bodies were bought at a price.

1 Corinthians 6:19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your bodies.

Our bodies should give glory to God. Our mouths should give glory to God. Our eyes should give glory to God. Our hands should give glory to God...

2. We were chosen by our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people

Isn't that a wonderful feeling, to be chosen? Yes of course.

Illustration: I remember when my wife was still single. I knew she had many suitors. They have cars and are rich and I go to their house on a tricycle and yet in the end, I was chosen. It was a great feeling.

Now, it was God Himself who chose us.

The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people

Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself chose us.

John 15: 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Again, we need to remember, that when God chose us, it is to because He has a purpose for us and that purpose is to give glory to His name.

And when did He choose us?

Ephesians 1: 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

Now how did we belong to Christ?

A little boy painstakingly made this toy boat and carried his new boat to the river. He placed it in the water and let out the string. All at once a strong current caught the boat. He tried to pull it back to shore, but the string broke and the little boat raced downstream.

The little boy searched for the boat until night fell and he went home with a heavy heart. A few days later he saw his boat in a store window. He spoke to the store manager: "Sir, that's my boat in your window! I made it!"

"Sorry, son, but someone else brought it in this morning. If you want it, you'll have to buy it for one dollar." The boy used all of his savings and bought his boat back. As he left the store, he hugged his boat and said, "Now you're twice mine. First, I made you and now I bought you."

It's the same with our Lord Jesus Christ, yes God gave us to His Son but our Lord had to purchase us with His own blood.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 You were bought with a price [you were actually purchased with the precious blood of Jesus and made His own]. (Amplified Version)

We have to remember that we belonged to the devil before because of our sins. This is the reason why Jesus Christ has to pay for our sins.

1 Peter 1:18 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

This is the reason why the Bible tell us...

The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

Etymology : seg-ool-lah - meaning treasure... you know the root word "shut up" (shut, close)

Why do we keep jewelry under lock and key? It's because it has great value!

What's one of the reasons it has great value? IT'S BECAUSE IT'S EXPENSIVE!!!!

Remember, we were bought not by silver and gold but by the very blood of Jesus Christ HIMSELF. THAT'S HOW VALUABLE WE ARE TO GOD!!!

So much value that even creation itself couldn't wait to see us when we are revealed.

Romans 8: 18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

Illustration : The Crown Jewels are worth \$4 to \$6Billion. It's so valuable that it is kept in a tower, displayed in a bombproof case guarded 24/7 by 22 armed Tower Guards and has a network of more than 100 hidden cameras.

It is only used during the coronation of a new King or Queen.

We are the crown jewels of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are so precious to Him. **So precious that He Himself is our protection!!!!**

Use this demonstration : Open Hand, gave something and then shut it with the other hand.

God gave us to His Son...our Lord bought us with His own blood from the devil and our Lord is saying, "He is mine... she is mine."

That's why the Bible say

John 10: 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Whatever happens, we will never be separated from the Lord.

Romans 8: 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

REMEMBER THIS!!!!That's why nothing happens to you without His permission. And remember this when something happens to you, **HE WANTS TO SHOWCASE HIS GLORY!!!!**

That's why the reaction of the Christian to suffering is... "Lord, use this situation for Your glory!"

Let me end with this quote from Oswald Sanders

"I have chosen you." Keep that note of greatness in your creed. It is not that you have got God, but that he has got you. Why is God at work in me, bending, breaking, molding, doing just as He chooses? For one purpose only—that He may be able to say, "This is my man, my woman." (Oswald Chambers -1874-1917)

Sometimes, you will hear people say, tell about someone. He is a man of God. Paul said that to Timothy. But it's also good to say and it's music to my ears when God says, "Look, that is God's man."

Remember, we now belong to our Lord Jesus Christ, and He bought you with His own blood. We are now God's man or God's woman.

Tell yourself, to the men first...

"I am God's man."

To the women, "I am God's woman."

Next week, we'll continue to remember not only we are God's possession, **God has set His affections on us and therefore He will always give us our provision.**

In the meantime, Remember, you are HOLY, CHOSEN AND TREASURED

Deuteronomy 7: 6 For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

PRAISE THE LORD!

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

S.G.D.

II. AFFECTIONS

There was a boy who did not have much athletic ability. Every time he and his friends would play some game, he was always the last to be chosen. One day two new fellows came to play with them and were allowed to be team captains because they were older. The first team captain chose the boy who had always been chosen last before. Why? Because they were brothers, and he loved his brother. So it is with God. He chose us not because of our abilities, but because he loves us.

From a sermon by Mark Schaeufele, A Messiah Who Serves, 5/27/2010

UNDER THE SHADE

Proverbs 3:6

proclaims, “In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success,”

Deuteronomy 4: 39 Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other. 40 Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the Lord your God gives you for all time.

Deuteronomy 5: 29 Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!

Deuteronomy 6: These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, 2 so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. 3 Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.[a] 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

10 When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, 11 houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, 12 be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.