

05-04-01-Living Life in God's Word

Lent, Bible, memorization, meditation, dedication

Deut 6:6-7

God wants our lives filled up with and lived out in His Word.

INTRODUCTION:

–*Lent* can be a time of both *giving up* and *putting in*. I'm trying that with *Bible-verse memorization* (during skipped noontime meals). Some passages tell us to learn Scripture by heart. I've learned Deut 6:6-7 in the more *literal* and *poetic NKJV*, but I still like to teach from the NIV: *These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 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.* **HOM.idea (title).**

– I've never met anyone who memorized the whole Bible. We usually seek out *verses of comfort* [like Psalm 23] or *special promises* [Rom 8:28]. God emphasis seems to be on *behavior* and *our relationship with Him*:

I. What “words” does God especially want “in your heart”? (NKJV)

- A. In v.4-5 is the Jewish Shema: “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” (God is *relational*, but also *moral*.)
- B. This *directive*—*These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts*—may refer to the *10 Commandments*, which were just repeated in Deut 5. (Why is *moral behavior* so important for human well-being? Because we're *created* to be images of the Holy God!)
- C. But when Jesus quoted Deut 8:3 from the *LXX* to rebuke Satan—“It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every **word** that comes from the mouth of God.’”—the term for “**word**” [*rhema*] is same term used by the *LXX* in v.6, “*rhema*” [a “*spoken word*”].

TRANS: Putting God's Word “*upon our hearts*,” allows Him to **speak** to us personally, from on the inside. Telling Scripture to others isn't to be *mechanical* but *personal*. And God **does** want us to *share it with others*.

II. To whom does He want us to share His Word?

- A. First, with those closest to us: “**Impress them on your children.**” [Heb. “impress” means “*repeated rubbing to sharpen*, as on a whetting stone.”]
- B. It's not just a one time deal [“*They know the Gospel; I told them when*

they were kids.”] but a *repeated sharing* over our entire lifetime.

C. It must be *from the heart*: **lived out**, not just *in word* but *in deed*.

TRANS: Our children and relatives should be able to say of us, “*They live a life in God's Word.*” But that shouldn't be apparent just to those closest to us. The passage describes both a *private* and *public lifestyle*.

III. When should we live out God's-Word-focused lifestyle?

- A. “*Talk about them when you sit at home*”— Do those visiting your home know the conversation is always likely to turn to spiritual things? (Politics-2nd Advent; pandemic-fear of death; finances- faith in God's supply; health problems-prayer; etc., etc. Be creative; plan!)
- B. “*when you walk along the road*,”— Be publicly bold [“*That reminds me of what the Bible says... Are you familiar with it?*” **Assume they should be!**]
- C. “*when you lie down*”— Put yourself to sleep with *comforting words!*
- D. “*when you get up*”— Awake and start the day talking to your soul.

CONCLUSION:

If **God wants our lives filled up with and lived out in His Word**, then we might want to start our day with Psa 103:1-5, “Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.”