



THE BOOK OF
DEUTERONOMY

Sermon Series Notes



“Putting To Death Relationships That Lead Us Astray” (Deuteronomy 13)

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Intro: I'd like to share with you my favorite sports magazine articles. “Now this message for America’s most famous athletes: Someday you may be invited to fly in the back seat of one of your country’s most powerful fighter jets. Many of you already have – John Elway, John Stockton, Tiger Woods to name a few. If you get this opportunity, let me urge you, with the greatest sincerity...move to Guam. Change your name. Fake your own death. Whatever you do, don’t go. I know. The U.S. Navy invited me to try it. I was thrilled. I was pumped. I was toast! I should’ve known when they told me my pilot would be Chip (Biff) King of Fighter Squadron 213 at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach. Whatever you're thinking a Top Gun named Chip "Biff" King looks like, triple it.

He's about six foot, tan, ice-blue eyes, wavy surfer hair, finger crippling handshake - the kind of man who wrestles dyspeptic alligators in his leisure time. If you see this man, run the other way - fast. Biff King was born to fly.

Biff was to fly me in an F-14D Tomcat, a ridiculously powerful \$60 million weapon with as much thrust as weight. I was worried about getting airsick, so the night before the flight I asked Biff if there was something I should eat the next morning. "Bananas," he said. "For the potassium?" I asked. "No," Biff said, "because they taste about the same coming up as they do going down."

The next morning out on the tarmac, I had on my flight suit with my name sewn over the left breast (No call sign like Crash or Sticky or Leadfoot - but still very cool). I carried my helmet on the crook of my arm as Biff had instructed. A fighter pilot named Psycho gave me a safety briefing and then fastened me into my ejection seat, which, when employed, would "egress" me out of the plane at such a velocity that I would be immediately knocked unconscious.

Just as I was thinking about aborting the flight. The canopy closed over me, and Biff gave the ground crew a thumbs up. In minutes we were firing nose up at 600 mph. We leveled out and then canopy rolled over another F-14. Those 20 minutes were the ride of my life. Unfortunately, the ride lasted 80 minutes. It was like being on the roller coaster at Six Flags Over Hell. Only without rails. We did barrel rolls, sap rolls, loops, yanks and banks. We dived, rose and dived again, sometimes with a vertical velocity of 10,000 feet per

minute. We chased another F-14. It chased us. Sea was sky and sky was sea. Flying at 200 feet we did 90 degree turns at 550 mph, creating a G force of 6.5, which is to say I felt as if 6.5 times my body weight was smashing against me.

And I egressed the bananas. I egressed the pizza from the night before. And the lunch before that. I egressed a box of Milk Duds from the sixth grade. Because of the G's, I was egressing stuff that did not even want to be egressed.

I went through not one airsick bag, but two. Biff said I passed out - twice. I was coated in sweat. At one point, as we were coming in upside down in a banked curve on a mock bombing target and the G's were flattening me like a tortilla and I was in and out of consciousness, I realized I was the first person in history to throw down.

I used to know cool. Cool was Elway throwing a touchdown pass, or Norman making a five iron bite. But now I really know cool. Cool is guys like Biff, men with cast iron stomachs and Freon nerves.

A week later when the spins finally stopped, Biff called. He said he and the fighters had the perfect call sign for me. Said he'd send it on a patch for my flight suit. "What is it?" I asked. "Two bags."

Tested...put through the ringer...purged

Read Deut.8:2; Love is always tested; When God created Adam and Eve, he placed them in paradise, but he put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of paradise. He told them they could eat from any tree in the garden except that one. It was a test of love.

Tonight we fast forward to Deuteronomy 13, and the whole chapter deals with testing of a specific kind, testing in regard to relationships. Satan mostly uses people to lead us astray/deceive us, and so it is vital that our relationships with others help to keep us close to the Lord. See Eccl.4:12.

vv.1-5 It's hard for me to imagine living under the old covenant and actually killing a false prophet who was attempting to lead me astray. But the severity in which this kind of thing was dealt with shows us how serious it really was. We must deal seriously with anything or anyone that would lead us astray. In Colossians 3:5 Paul says we are to "put to death" whatever belongs to our earthly nature. Jesus said that if our hand or foot offends us we are to "cut them off." Even though under the new covenant we would not literally take someone's life who was trying to lead us astray, we nevertheless must "put to death" that relationship.

Galatians 1: 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! 9 As we have already said, so

now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!

See II Peter 2:1-3

Matt.7: 15 Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them.

Matthew 24: 24 For false Christ's and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect--if that were possible. 25 See, I have told you ahead of time.

II Thess.2: 9-10 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

Just because the miraculous takes place doesn't mean that the minister or ministry is based upon truth; Moses and the wise men of Egypt (Exodus 7:8-13, 19-23; 8:5-7, 8ff, 15, 16-19).

vv.6-11 The first deception I call "ministry deception," but this one gets much more personal – brother, son or daughter, spouse, closest friend. This is "family and friend deception."

Read John 7:1-6; Jesus did not let his brothers influence his decisions.

When I was in high school my friend Randy Truett introduced his older brother Ricky to drugs. Years later Ricky took his own life. Randy died two years ago. He was addicted to crystal meth. Had I not severed my relationship with Randy when I became a Christian, who knows what would have happened to me?

Wives (or husbands)

I Kings 11: 3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. 4 As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.

Lot's wife most likely influenced him to live in Sodom. She looked back when leaving Sodom (Gen.19:26); Luke 17: 32 Remember Lot's wife.

I Kings 21:25 (There was never a man like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, urged on by Jezebel his wife.

Job 2: 8 Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. 9 His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" 10 He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

Who you marry is one of the most important decisions of your life! Make sure you marry someone who knows and loves the Lord, and who loves the Word of God.

Close Friends

See Matt.16: 21-23; What if Jesus had said, "You're right Peter. Enough of this talk of suffering. Do they know who I Am?"

It does not mean that we should cut off all contact with a brother, son, daughter, or spouse. Obviously we will have to continue to live with a husband/wife. It simply means that we not allow any family member or close friend to lead us astray. And we must be willing to suffer whatever consequences come with that kind of commitment to the Lord.

Matthew 10: 34-37 Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law--a man's enemies will be the members of his own household. Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

vv.12-18 This is what I call "community deception."

Community: A social unit of any size that shares common values.

I Cor.15: 33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

MYF story

One of the things we encouraged our oldest son Tanner to do when he got to UCF was find out what ministries there were on campus, get involved with one, and find a good Bible teaching church and get involved there as well. He got involved with Campus Crusade (CRU), and he found a good church. If he had not done those things, the potential for him to be led astray by the wrong crowd on campus would have been much greater.

II Cor.6: 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial ? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." 17 "Therefore come out from **them** and be separate, says the Lord.

Note: These are groups of people "among you" (v.13).

In the church there are those who love the Lord, and there are those who don't...wheat and tares grow together (Matt.13:24-30);

Groups that feed their fleshly appetites

See Jude 12

Num.11: 4 The rabble **with them** began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat! 5 We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost--also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. 6 But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!"

Groups that distort truth

Acts 20: 30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. 31 So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

Hallelujah Acres; I Timothy 4:1-4; Mark 7:19; Rom.14:20-23

Luke 24:42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.

John 21: 9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught" ...13 Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

Luke 22: 15 And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

Henry Wright

Groups that introduce “new truth”

Mormonism, Hebrews roots, etc.

If we didn’t get truth from the apostles, we aint ever gonna get truth!

Groups of people who lead us to rebel against God-ordained authority

Numbers 16:1 Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and certain Reubenites--Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth--became insolent and rose up against Moses. With them were 250 Israelite men, well-known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council.

There are more ministers of deceit than ministers of truth.

Matt.24: 11...and **many** false prophets will appear and deceive **many** people.

I Kings 22:1-23ff

I Kings 18: 19 Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

There are more followers of deception than followers of truth.

Matthew 7: 13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

CONCLUSION

Nicodemus (John 3; 7:50-52); Nicodemus made a decision regarding Christ that cost him in his relationship with his peers. At the end of John’s gospel we find Nicodemus partnering with Joseph of Arimathea, who is called “a disciple of Jesus.” Together they get permission from Pilate to take Jesus’ body, and after doing so they bury Jesus in Joseph’s own tomb.

Matthew 15: 14 Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

Some of us may need to sever some relationships. Some of us may need to take a strong stand for Christ in our families. Some of us may need to find a new “community” to hang out with.

Eccl.4:12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not easily broken.