

From Grace to Obedience

“A relationship with God by grace does not eliminate the need for obedience but rather forms the foundation for it.”^v God forgives us as a free gift so that we can know and love our king. Obeying Him is an opportunity for us to say thank you.

Do You Know You are Lost?

Deuteronomy 29:2–4

² And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: “**You have seen all that the Lord did** before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land,³ the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, and those great wonders.⁴ **But** to this day *the Lord has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear.* (Jeremiah 25:4; Ezekiel 12:2)

Jesus – (Mark 4:9, 23; Luke 8:8; 14:34-35)

Key Idea:

When God calls to us in the wilderness it produces either a thankful, repentant heart or a bitter, grumbling, hard, unrepentant heart.

- ✓ Does your sin scare you, and does Jesus feel precious to you?
- ✓ Are you looking for ways to obey God so that you can say thank you?

We Must be Born Again so We can See!

ⁱ Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). *Numbers: God's presence in the wilderness* (p. 180). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

ⁱⁱ Ibid. (p. 186).

ⁱⁱⁱ Carson, D. A., France, R. T., Motyer, J. A., & Wenham, G. J. (Eds.). (1994). *New Bible commentary: 21st century edition* (4th ed., pp. 183–184). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.

^{iv} Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). *Numbers: God's presence in the wilderness* (p. 187). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

^v Ibid. (p. 196).

Notes:

In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#16 in Series] (Numbers 15–25) *Forty Years in the Wilderness: Part 1, A Gracious but Stern Response to Rebellion* – Numbers 15:1–41

Sermon Outline – August 2, 2015

Children's Sermon/Introduction

❖ **Lost & Found at Fort Wilderness...**

Psalm 78:52

Then he led out his people like sheep and **guided them in the wilderness** like a flock.

General Context:

These laws in chapter 15 are God's response to the rebellion in chapters 13-14.

BIG PICTURE:

A GRACIOUS BUT STERN RESPONSE TO REBELLION

“*Note then the kindness and the severity of God*” Rom. 11:22

NUMBERS 1-10:10 – GETTING READY TO GO...

NUMBERS 10:11-36 – SETTING OUT FOR THE LAND, LED BY THE LORD

THE JOURNEY OF REBELLION FROM SINAI TO KADESH (11–14) **ISRAEL REJECTS & DESPISES GOD!**

LAWS FOR THE LAND: OFFERINGS AND FORGIVENESS (15)

1. **LAWS ABOUT SACRIFICES IN THE LAND (1-16)**

² “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land you are to inhabit, which I am giving you...

2. **LAWS ABOUT TRIBUTE, (UNINTENTIONAL SINS & “HIGH-HANDED” SINS) (17-36)**

¹⁸ “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land to which I bring you¹⁹ and when you eat of the bread of the land...

3. **TASSELS ON GARMENTS (38-41) WHAT IS THE DEAL WITH TASSELS?**

³⁷ *The Lord said to Moses,*³⁸ “Speak to the people of Israel...

God Responds...Steadfast Love

Notes:

Relationship with God!

(You Need to be Fluent in OT Worship)

When you come into the land...³ and **you offer to the Lord** from the herd or from the flock **a food offering** or a **burnt offering** or a **sacrifice**, to **fulfill a vow** or as a **freewill offering** or at your appointed feasts, **to make a pleasing aroma to the Lord**,⁴ then...

The regulations in Numbers 15 strengthen the picture of table fellowship between God and man by requiring a symbolic balanced meal at these offerings: a large portion of meat must always be accompanied by the appropriate carbohydrates and beverage. ... Moreover, a sheep or a goat was only the small-size serving. These sacrifices also come in “regular” portions (a ram; vv. 6, 7) and “super-size” (a bull; vv. 8–10). In each case, the accompanying “side orders” had to be scaled up to match (vv. 11, 12).ⁱ

- God is Still Giving Israel a Way to Draw Near to Him...
- The Land Will be Given to Israel & They Will be Wealthy
 - Ox/Bull – Think Tractor or Car
 - Flour, Oil and Wine...

The Native Israelite & the Sojourner

¹³ Every *native Israelite* shall do these things in this way, in offering a food offering, with a pleasing aroma to the Lord. ¹⁴ And if *a stranger is sojourning with you*, or anyone is *living permanently among you*, and he wishes to offer a food offering, with a pleasing aroma to the Lord, he shall do as you do. ...

- Native Israelite...
- One Rule for All... (Those who sinned – vs. 26, 29, 30)

God Responds...Instruction (How Does God Want His People to Respond?)

A Thankful...not A Grumbling Heart

¹⁷ **The Lord spoke to Moses**, saying, ¹⁸ “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land to which I bring you ¹⁹ and *when you eat of the bread of the land*, you shall present a contribution to the Lord. ²⁰ **Of the first of your dough you shall present a loaf as a contribution**; like a contribution from the threshing floor, so shall you present it.

- Imagine how you would feel if you had to prepare a plate for Jesus every day at dinner? How would you feel?

Notes:

“Let me suggest that our response to the Scriptural obligations for giving is a good diagnostic test of what we are really thinking about God and about *our chief purpose in life*.” ⁱⁱ (Bold mine)

“There is a principle of thankfulness in this law. Israel must return to the Lord an offering from the land which he had given to them in the first place. Such is the spirit of the law, the very opposite of grumbling and complaining.” ⁱⁱⁱ

“If Israel’s thinking about God was correct, it would have been constantly evident to them that everything their land produced came to them from the Lord, the one who had given them the land in the first place. If they understood that, then the question on their lips would not be “Do I have to give?” but “How much am I able to give?” ^{iv}

- God does not require a tithe He requires generosity. (Ephesians 4:28)

A Repentant...not A Hard Heart (24-36)

²² “But if you *sin unintentionally*, and do not observe all these commandments that the Lord has spoken to Moses...

³⁰ But the person who does anything *with a high hand*...

- A Substitute...

God Responds...A Reminder (Identity)

Tassels & Blue Cord? (A Royal Priesthood)

- The “Hem”/“Corners”; “Four corners of the garment” (Deut. 22:12)
 - David & Saul
 - Woman Bleeding & Jesus Hem
- The Blue Cord (tiny sea snails)

³⁹ And it shall be a tassel for you *to look at and remember all the commandments of the Lord*, to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after. ⁴⁰ So you shall remember and **do all my commandments**, and **be holy to your God**. ⁴¹ I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the Lord your God.”

Notes: