

"YOU SHALL BE MY PEOPLE"

Moses' Last Words (2)

Lesson 11

December 27

The big book of *Deuteronomy* contains the last words of Moses—a series of speeches where he reminds, warns, challenges, and encourages Israel to live as the people of God. As we near the end of our study, let's focus in on **Deuteronomy 9**:

"Hear, O Israel: you are to cross over the Jordan today, to go in to dispossess nations _____ and mightier than you, cities great and fortified up to heaven, a people great and tall, the sons of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you have heard it said, 'Who can stand before the sons of Anak?' Know therefore today that he who goes over _____ you as a consuming fire is the LORD your God. He will destroy them and subdue them before you. So you shall drive them out and make them perish quickly, as the LORD has promised you." (9:1-3)

But the LORD very quickly follows up with some important perspective and a warning:

"Do _____ say in your heart, after the LORD your God has thrust them out before you, 'It is because of _____ righteousness that the LORD has brought me in to possess this land,' whereas it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out before you. Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the LORD your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may _____ the word that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." (9:4-5)

And next, Moses reminds the children of Israel of a sad moment in their history (that we haven't taken the time to examine in detail yet).

"From the day you came out of the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD. Even at Horeb you provoked the LORD to wrath, and the LORD was so angry with you that he was ready to destroy you. When I went up the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant that the LORD made with you, I remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water. And the LORD gave me the two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words that the LORD had spoken with you on the mountain out of the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly. And at the end of forty days and forty nights the LORD gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant. Then the LORD said to me, 'Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people whom you have brought from Egypt have acted corruptly. They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them; they have made themselves a metal _____.'" (9:7-12)

As we turn our Bibles back to **Exodus 32**, why do you think Moses reminded the people of this event at the foot of Mount Sinai? What did they need to remember and never forget? How would the remembering help them in the Promised Land, and how can it continue to help us? Let's talk about it...

For Class & Family Discussion:

- In **Exodus 32:1**, what prompted the people to gather themselves together to Aaron and what was their demand? Is there anything we can learn from that?
- Look carefully at the way Aaron responded in **32:2-4**. How *should* he have responded? What *should* he have said? What can we learn from the fact that he didn't?
- What do the people say after Aaron has fashioned the golden calf in **32:4**? Why do you think they would say that sort of thing?
- What should we make of what Aaron does next in **32:5**?
- How does the LORD describe what the people have done in **32:6-8**?
- When Moses confronts Aaron in **32:21-24**, how does Aaron respond? Again, how *should* he have responded? What *should* he have said? Why do you think he said what he said, and what can we learn?
- “The next day Moses said to the people, ‘You have sinned a great sin’” (**32:30**). As we make our way back to **Deuteronomy 9**, let's think about what we've seen and heard. What did Moses want the people to know (**9:3**) as they went into the Promised Land?
- What did Moses want to make sure the people didn't do (**9:4-5**) as they went into the Promised Land? Putting it all together, how could remembering the failure with the golden calf at Mount Sinai help them and keep them grounded? And how can it continue to help us?