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## THE PERIL OF PROSPERITY (Deuteronomy 8)

...Our world is filled with many dangers. A short list would include sickness, financial reversal, evil men, nature's forces of destruction, and accidents that occur both on the highway and in the home. "Danger in them there hills!"  
...However, there is one danger that we never think of as a danger, and that is the danger of prosperity. Having more than "Your daily bread," can be the cause of your wandering far away from the Lord. How sad is this!  
...The book of Deuteronomy is the last book of Moses. In it Moses preached 4 sermons on the Law to the kids who were now about to enter the glorious prosperity of God's promised land. Moses warns of the danger of prosperity.

### TWO CONSIDERATIONS WARNING OF THE DANGER OF HAVING TOO MUCH...IT MAY TEMPT YOU TO WANDER.

...For prosperity, ease, and success may lead us to think too highly of ourselves causing us to forget the Lord!

#### I. The Principle: Moses Warns of The Danger of Plenty.

- A. Moses reminded the children of the Lord's care of them during their desert wanderings. (1-5)
  - 1. "Remember how the Lord God led you all the way..." (2) (40 years)
  - 2. God had humbled the people by allowing them to hunger and then taught that man does "not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from God."  
...Their hunger caused them to cry out to God for food.  
...Most recognized that their total dependency was on the Lord and His daily provision. It was not the bread that sustained them, it was the word from God's mouth that provided the bread. Manna was something unknown to them.
- B. Moses then warns the nation of the temptation to forget the Lord after they are prosperous in the land, at rest, and settled in life. (vv.6-9)
  - 1. The Lord was "bringing them into a good land." Plenty of water, wheat and barley...plenty of all kinds. So that "you will eat and be full and lack nothing."  
2. What a huge contrast to former days. "From rags to riches..."
- C. Moses spells out the danger inherent in abundant prosperity. (vv.10-18)
  - 1. Earlier God had humbled His people in the wilderness so that they would learn to trust Him in meeting their every need. (manna, water, clothing,) (40 years)
  - 2. Moses urges them to be very careful after they have "eaten and are satisfied," to not forget the Lord God. (10-11)
  - 3. Pride seems to creep in when we have more than enough. (vv.12-14, 17)  
...We forget the Lord's blessings and care, and think we have done it.  
...We forget that it is the Lord who "gives the power to get wealth." (v.18)
- D. The only answer: Never stop praising the Lord for His care and provision for you. (v.10)
  - 1. Daily give glory to God by "blessing Him in song and praises of thanksgiving."  
2. It is realizing that all of life is a gift from God and nothing is possible apart from Him.  
...Sing: "Come Thou fount of every blessing..."  
...Sing: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow..."
- E. Failure to remember and bless the Lord leads to forgetting Him. (vv.18-20)  
...And if you forget the Lord you will go after other idols...and this will result in destruction, loss and death. (19-20) You will perish just as the others (nations) before you.

#### II. The People: This Principle Is Sadly Seen In Some Godly Men Who Loved God.

- A. David had lived many years on the lam, running from Saul and living in the wilderness. One day God delivered him from all of his trouble. God prospered him, giving him peace with his enemies and great wealth. It was during his days of ease and plenty that he wandered from the Lord committing adultery and murder. His life was forever changed, often filled with tears.

- B. Solomon had started off so well seeking the Lord's help and favor as he assumed his father's throne. God was pleased to grant him wisdom and everything else. In time of plenty, he wandered away from the Lord filling his life with wine, women, and song. What a tragedy!
- C. Hezekiah was a godly king whom had the blessing of God on his life, but wandered off in pride after God had healed him and granted him 15 more years of life. (2 Kings 20:1-6, 12-18)

**SO WHAT? WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS MAKE IN MY LIFE?**

1. Daily give glory to God by singing and praising Him. Count your every blessing and do this from the heart and it will keep you close to the Lord even in the midst of His blessing and provision.
2. Beware of stuff, for it can so easily crowd your heart and leave very little room for the Lord Jesus.
3. Remember the lesson here, all of life is a gift from God and nothing is possible apart from Him. Give Him the glory!
4. Know that the problem here is our bent to sin. We sing, "Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love." The only solution is to stay close to the Lord by remembering that everything we have is all from Him and praise Him for it.
5. Have you received the greatest gift ever given? "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." Have you received Jesus as your Savior? He alone paid the price for sin. Don't delay...bow before Him today as your Lord and Savior.