



LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

Life Group Notes – 24th April 2022

Deuteronomy 6:4-9: The Shema

Please visit the LCC website to listen to the talk or read the transcript if available.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

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. These commandments that I give you today are to be on 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. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates.

Note: This is the NIV2011 version of the text – it would be helpful to compare it with other translations.

Comment

This passage is called the *Shema* which is prayed daily by devout Jews as a daily reminder of their devotion and responsibility as followers of God. It is also a reminder for the church of our devotion and responsibility as followers of Jesus to teach and love each other and every generation that is part of it. Firstly, it starts with the word 'Hear' which is where derives its name from - the Hebrew word 'Shema'. It means 'listen', but not just listen but also obey. It's not a passive instruction but an active, sit up and hear, put it into action, do something about it command. After His sermon on the mount, Jesus illustrated what it means to hear, to listen and act upon what you hear (cf Matt 7:24-27). Hearing must lead to doing: This is the Jesus Way.

Secondly, 'The Lord is our God, the Lord is One' means He is the only God! In him there is perfect unity. Thirdly, we are to love Him with our entire being, that is to desire and seek after everything and anything that is God, because of who He is. To love with our heart, soul, mind and strength. (Note: The word 'mind' was included in New Testament references to the Shema because the Hebrew word for heart also encompassed the mind and emotions. The additional word for mind had to be added to give the wider meaning in the NT Greek).

Fourthly and lastly, we are to teach diligently (impress), live out, share, and wear God's Word as a testimony to every generation. Jesus is the living Word – we are to live out, teach and demonstrate our love for Him as clearly as if it was written on our hands or on our foreheads!

So, in conclusion, we are to hear and put into action our love, we are called to follow Jesus with our entire lives. To love and breath Him in with every aspect of our lives and pass this on to every generation, to walk alongside, pray for and enable everyone to remember who he is. We are called to help all people to connect to Him who is the source of Life and share to a world that is desperate for identity, meaning and purpose.

Questions

1. What is the greatest barrier to putting this passage into practice? Why?
2. In what ways can we learn to love God with our entire being, our heart, soul, mind and strength?
3. Hearing (*Shema*) is a call for active listening. What things has the Lord been calling us to do, through our personal reading or listening?
4. This passage challenges us to interact with the younger generations in our church. In what simple ways can we prioritise our active involvement with these generations?