

Chapel Pointe – Morning Service  
 Pastor Daniel L. Rundhaug  
 Series “Our Obligation to the Next Generation” – Part 2  
 © 08/09/2009

## **“Leaving Out the Little Things”**

### **Deuteronomy 7:1-11**

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#### **Introduction (Me):**

**[Picture Before and After]** Building my first car – Ford Mustang with a souped-up 351W engine  
 Putting the valves in wrong, and dropping one into a cylinder and blowing the engine  
 One little mistake with big consequences...

The diaper that’s a little too loose...

#### **Tension (We):**

Making Tuna Noodle Casserole and forgetting the Tuna  
 Missing a small part of the formula in a math equation  
 Missing the “Fine Print”

**\*\*Elements to Insert:** It isn’t a matter of micromanaging your kids to see what’s slipping through their cracks. It’s a matter of watching your own life as an adult to make sure things aren’t slipping through the cracks in your life, that may create devastating effects for the next generation. The Israelites missed things that they used to look out for. The results, Judges 2-3.

**Main Point:** How you live your life today will influence the generation of tomorrow.

#### **Contextualization (God):**

Review last week’s message...

We saw what God wants us to do – live a life of obedience to Him. We saw why he wants us to do it – out of love for God, and so that the next generation would see our lives and want to know why we live the way we do.

From God’s perspective, this is accomplished through our daily telling of stories about God’s role and involvement in our lives.

Today, what happens when we don’t live how God wants us to? What happens, when we think we’re leaving just a little thing out of what God wants us to do?

#### **Text (God):**

##### **v. 1-5 – Setting the Stage**

1. A “David” of a nation versus the “Goliath’s” (v. 1)

- a. Sometimes these nations are all represented under the general title of the Canaanites or Canaanites and Amorites.
  - b. Here, they are spelled out specifically
    - 1) These seven nations would be relatively small states from a geographic perspective
2. The divine/human cooperative between God and man (v. 2)
    - a. God is driving the nations out... The Israelites have defeated them
    - b. **“Without God, we can’t; without us, He won’t.”** – Dave Stevens
  3. God calls for total obedience, which means flirting with the enemy is off limits – “Destroy totally...” (v. 2)
    - a. **“The Canaanites deserved to die because of their sin.”** – Charles Ryrie, Study Bible
    - b. **“Studies of their religion, literature and archeological remains reveal that they were the most morally depraved culture on the earth at the time.”** – Jack Deere, BKC, p. 276
  4. The warning about letting little things slip through the cracks (v. 3-4)
    - a. “Make no treaty...” Moses is making sure the people know not to let little things slip through the cracks.
      - 1) Any kind of treaty would lead to compromise and the destruction of Israel
        - a) A treaty would indicate the thought that you felt threatened by the other party
        - b) The Israelites were bound by a treaty with God already
        - c) To make another treaty would indicate a lack of faithfulness on their part to their God.
  5. God’s instruction: “Don’t flirt with their stuff!” (v. 5)

#### v. 6-8 – God’s View of Us

1. “Holy to the Lord?” (v. 6)
  - a. God chose them, and we too are chosen by God...
    - 1) It was God’s special choice to pick Abraham (the Israelites) out of all the nations of the day.
2. God didn’t choose us because we had something special to give (v. 7)
  - a. Israel didn’t have any intrinsic worth...
    - 1) **Illustration: Picking people for the kickball team... who’s the best, the fastest, the strongest. God didn’t pick Israel because of any of those things.**
  - b. We had nothing to offer
3. It was God’s mercy and grace (v. 8)
  - a. Mercy – Not getting what we do deserve
  - b. Grace – Getting what we don’t deserve
    - 1) **Illustration: Imagery of being bought as a slave and given your freedom. Who would return to slavery? God carried Israel out of Egypt. He carries us out of our sin.**

- c. “Israel’s status as a holy people is no ground for pride, but rather imposes on them added responsibility to be worthy of their calling.” – Duane Christensen, WBC
- d. Israel knew God loved them by their experience. They didn’t have to think in theological or philosophical terms, they knew it.

#### v. 9-11 – A Final Plea

1. God balances His love with His justice (v. 9-10)
  - a. Hence the “Stipulations”
  - b. Repay them “face to face.”
    - 1) Intimidation
    - 2) **Illustration: “I’d like to see him say that to my face!”**
2. “Take care to follow...” (v. 11)
  - a. “Moses meant for the Israelites to draw two conclusions from God’s choice and redemption of them. First, the Lord alone is God. He is able to control history, to raise up nations, and to bring them down. Second, He is the faithful God.” – Jack Deere, BKC, p. 276-277
  - b. How are we doing?

#### Application (You) “What do they need to do?”:

\*Reread the nations that the Israelites were told to completely destroy. Link to Judges 2:10-11; 3:5-6. Six out of seven nations remained, and they are linked as the cause of Israel’s problems and future demise.

The Israelites thought they would be okay if they skirted around some of God’s commands... just a little bit... Just letting a little thing slip through isn’t a big deal. Having little sins is really okay...

We buy into that same philosophy. Little sins that we say are okay...

- Gossip
- Laziness
- Temper
- Language
- What you watch on TV

**“95% commitment to God is 5% short!” – Bill Hybels**

**“But Christians today should learn from this command that they should be as ruthless with sin in their own lives as Israel should have been against the Canaanites.” – Jack Deere, BKC, p. 276**

What are we letting slip through the cracks today, that are our responsibility, but will have devastating effects on the next generation?

**Main Point: How you live your life today will influence the generation of tomorrow.**

**Inspiration (We) “Why do they need to do it?”:**

God doesn't take lightly the role that adults play in preparing the next generation. This isn't just a mom and dad thing, this is a Christ-follower thing. God looks at us as a community of Christians and says, “Each one of us is equally responsible for preparing the next generation.”

How we live our lives is a big way in which the next generation is prepared. Whether we like it or not, how we live today, will influence the generation of tomorrow. Just like the Israelites, if we leave out the little things of how God wants us to live, it may not matter to us. But what about the next generation? Would the Israelites have lived any different if they had known what would happen to the generations that followed them? The real question for us is, “How different will we live since we do know that the success of the next generation is dependent on how we live today?”

Closing Song: “Potter's Hands”