

# Deuteronomy: God's Covenant People

[#36] *Jesus Rescues Our Poor Enslaved Hearts* – Dt. 15:1–18

## Sermon Outline – May 13, 2018

### Children's Sermon: Why Should We Do Good?

- What does it look like when we are good?
- Why should we be good? God always know what & why! (Galatians 6:7–8)

### Galatians 6:9–10

<sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary of *doing good*, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and *especially to those who are of the household of faith*.

- Why do you think we should especially do good to other Christians?

### Hebrews 4:11

### Review from last Sunday

*Let us therefore strive to enter that rest*, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

**Entering the Rest** that Jesus makes available: Joy & Generosity

Next 2 Weeks:

1. **Generosity:** Release for the Poor – Deuteronomy 15:1-18
2. **Joy:** Feasting before the Lord – Deuteronomy 15:19-16:17

Notes:

### How Was Israel Being Taught to Keep the Sabbath?

#### Today's Clear Biblical Bullet...

Yahweh is teaching Israel to rest in the wealth and freedom he alone can secure for them.



### Forgive Debts, Rest in the LORD's Promised Blessing

Release of Debts to Brothers after Seven Years

<sup>1</sup> “At the end of every seven years you shall **grant a release**.

<sup>2</sup> And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release what he has lent to *his neighbor*. He shall not exact it of *his neighbor, his brother, because the LORD's release has been proclaimed*.

<sup>3</sup> *Of a foreigner you may exact it*, but whatever of yours is with *your brother* your hand shall release. <sup>4</sup> But **there will be no poor among you**; for **the LORD will bless you** in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess—

<sup>5</sup> if only you will strictly obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all

this commandment that I command you today. <sup>6</sup> For **the LORD your God will bless you**, as he promised you, and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow, and you shall rule over many nations, but they shall not rule over you.

### The Rest of Yahweh Releases Israel from Idolatry

<sup>7</sup> “*If among you, one of your brothers should become poor*, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, ***you shall not harden your heart*** or shut your hand against your poor brother, <sup>8</sup> but ***you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need***, whatever it may be. <sup>9</sup> Take care lest there be an unworthy thought in your heart and you say, ‘The seventh year, the year of release is near,’ and your eye look grudgingly on your poor brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to the LORD against you, and you be guilty of sin. <sup>10</sup> ***You shall give to him freely***, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, **because for this the LORD your God will bless you** in all your work and in all that you undertake. <sup>11</sup> For **there will never cease to be poor in the land**. Therefore ***I command you, ‘You shall open wide your hand to your brother***, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.’

### Summary:

- ✓ Lend Freely = Yahweh has blessed & will bless
- ✓ 7<sup>th</sup> Year Release the Debt = Blessed to be a blessing
- ✓ Enter Yahweh’s Rest = Trust/Generosity

**Yahweh’s release has been proclaimed for His people!**

### Release of Hebrew Slaves

Release a Hebrew Slave in the Seventh Year

<sup>12</sup> “If your brother, ***a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you***, he shall serve you six years, and in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you. <sup>13</sup> And when you let him go free from you, ***you shall not let him go empty-handed***. <sup>14</sup> You shall furnish him liberally out of your flock, out of your threshing floor, and out of your winepress. **As the LORD your God has blessed you, you shall give to him**. <sup>15</sup> **You shall remember** that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this today.

A Servant who Loves His Master

<sup>16</sup> But if he says to you, ‘I will not go out from you,’ *because he loves you and your household*, since he is well-off with you, <sup>17</sup> then you shall take an awl, and put it through his ear into the door, and he shall be your slave forever. And to your female slave you shall do the same.

Think Clearly about How Reasonable is this Command

<sup>18</sup> *It shall not seem hard to you* when you let him go free from you, for at half the cost of a hired worker he has served you six years. So **the LORD your God will bless you** in all that you do.

### Summary:

- ✓ Release in 7<sup>th</sup> Year = Don't be like Pharaoh, be Like Yahweh (Send-out, & not Empty-Handed)
- ✓ Covenant Love for a Good Master = Love Yahweh
- ✓ Entering Yahweh's Rest = Reveals the Goodness & Security of Obedience

**Yahweh freed & blessed Israel so that through them He might bring further freedom & blessing (from idolatry).**

### Jesus' Generosity Produces True Freedom (Rest)

*...Fired at our Life & Heart*

Jesus has paid for our idolatries and freed us from them, to joyfully serve Him and His people.



### Jesus Fulfills this Law:

- ✓ Jesus has Released Our Debt (Idolatry's Debt Forgiven)
- ✓ Jesus Has Freed Us from Slavery (from Sin/Idolatry)
- ✓ Jesus is the Willing Servant who Loves His Father

### The Transforming Power of His Grace:

#### 1 Corinthians 7:22

For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a *freedman* of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a *bondservant* of Christ.

- ✓ Generosity & Love for God's House
  - Use what you have to bless brothers (Time, ears, counsel, money; **Outsiders? Galatians 6:10**)
  - Freely forgive our debtors (Matt. 6:12)

## Acts 4:32–35

<sup>32</sup> Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup> And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>

***There was not a needy person among them***, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold <sup>35</sup> and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. (Cf. **Acts 5:3–4** – Ananias and Sapphira; Peter)

- ✓ As the Lord's Freedman, Rescue Lost Brothers/Sisters from Slavery
  - Join Jesus in Searching for His Lost Sheep (Jn. 10:15)
  - Teaching One-another to Enter God's Rest

## 1 Timothy 6:17–19

<sup>17</sup> As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. <sup>18</sup> ***They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share***, <sup>19</sup> thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may **take hold of that which is truly life**.

## Ephesians 4:15–16

<sup>15</sup> Rather, ***speaking the truth in love***, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, ***into Christ***, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that ***it builds itself up in love***.