

A Greater Purpose
Deuteronomy 3:12-29

Introduction

Read Deuteronomy 3:12-29

Exposition

This morning's passage can be broken up into two sections. First, in verse 12-20, we see Moses instructing the Reubenite, Gaddites, and the half-tribe of Manassah, to fulfill their obligation of helping the rest of the Israelites inherit the Promised Land. Just because these tribes had already settled on one side of the Jordan River, they were not free to abandon the work to which God had called them. The second section reveal Moses commissioning Joshua to lead the people into the Promised Land while also seeing Moses plead with the LORD to let him see the land. The scene is both exciting and tragic. Moses will not enter into the land. He will die outside the land that God promised while another goes into the inherit the land.

There are two principles that I believe we need to consider from this passage this morning:

I. God's people must work together for God's purpose (Vv. 12-20)

We never settle or graduate from serving others. (Nursery Service – "I did my time...")

II. God's people only enjoy God's blessing because of God's grace (Vv. 21-29)

In the exchange between Moses and Joshua, we see two people who point to a single reality about God's plan in the world. In Moses and Joshua, we see justice and grace. We see one servant of the Lord who will die outside the promised land while others go into it. We see another servant of the Lord who will take the people into the land victorious.

Conclusion

The exchange between Moses and Joshua points us to another servant of the Lord in Isaiah 53:4-6...

As the author of Hebrews tells us, Jesus suffered outside the camp of Jerusalem that we who have been excluded might be brought near to God. Yet, unlike Moses, Jesus did not remain dead outside the camp. He rose again, leading captivity itself captive. In the person and work of Jesus Christ, the roles of Moses and Joshua find their greatest fulfillment. Jesus not only bears the penalty for our sins, but he also rises again in victory over death and hell that we might enter into His eternal rest. All the work that is required for us to enter has been accomplished. The question before us now is simply will we repent of our attempts to save ourselves and place our trust wholly in Jesus Christ?