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“The Traps”

Review

- We are in a series about the importance of spiritually investing in future generations
- God’s plan for people raising godly offspring was through a partnership between our Physical family and our Spiritual family working together.

Traps

- The book of Deuteronomy was written to the Israelites that had come out of Egypt. It was written while they wandered in the desert for years. God knew that the Israelites wouldn’t be in the wilderness forever. They would eventually come to the land He had promised their ancestors and He knew the traps they would face that could cause great harm.

Deuteronomy 6:14-19 (NLT) “You must not worship any of the gods of neighboring nations, ¹⁵ for the Lord your God, who lives among you, is a jealous God. His anger will flare up against you, and he will wipe you from the face of the earth. ¹⁶ You must not test the Lord your God as you did when you complained at Massah. ¹⁷ You must diligently obey the commands of the Lord your God - all the laws and decrees he has given you. ¹⁸ Do what is right and good in the Lord’s sight, so all will go well with you. Then you will enter and occupy the good land that the Lord swore to give your ancestors. ¹⁹ You will drive out all the enemies living in the land, just as the Lord said you would.

- The 3 traps we see here are idols, pride and ungodly culture
- God pursues people in many ways, but Plan A to help people know who He is and to choose to be in relationship with Him is the family, both physical and spiritual family
- He tells the Israelites about the traps they will need to avoid, to stay in relationship with him
- A trap is something designed to either take away your freedom or to kill you
- God wants us to avoid this - for us! 7 times in Deuteronomy, chapters 4-6 we read, **“Do what is right and good in the Lord’s sight, so all will go well with you.”**

EVERY CHRISTIAN CAN PREPARE THEIR KIDS BY AVOIDING 3 DANGEROUS TRAPS

TRAP #1 – IDOLS (Deuteronomy 6:14)

- The people in the Promised Land worshiped many gods or idols
- Today, the things we worship look different, but many people worship idols in less visible ways.
- God makes it clear that we are to worship only him. He is the only way to salvation (John 14:6)
 - The 1st 2nd of the 10 commandments address this topic (Deuteronomy 5:7-8)
- We were created to worship and we *will* worship something!
 - Often, the things that take 1st place instead of God have to do with our identity.
- Hobbies/sports, Work, Education, Reputation
 - Anything that we center our life on and make more important than God, is a false god.
- Whatever we worship other than God has an evil spirit behind that (Ephesians 6:12)
- We have an enemy that wants to destroy us, and he will use whatever he can to keep us from an abiding relationship with God.
- God tells us to avoid the trap of idol worship for our good! He wants what’s best for us!

TRAP #2 – PRIDE (Deuteronomy 6:16)

- In Exodus 17 God had just miraculously saved the people from the Egyptians by leading them through the Red Sea. He provided them with daily bread from Heaven and quail. Even after all that, when they ran low on water, they complained to Moses and God
 - When we complain we're saying, "God are you there? Do you even care about me?"
 - That comes from a place of pride. As if we deserve more than 1) being created 2) being redeemed at the cost of Jesus' life 3) the good provision God gives
- Every sin starts with pride. The root of all sin is thinking that we know better than God.
- God shows the opposite of pride and why we should choose humility (Deuteronomy 6:17-18)
 - God wants us to live humbly "So that it will go well with you."
- The church plays a part in protecting against pride – Godly wisdom & accountability

TRAP #3 – CULTURE (Deuteronomy 6:19)

- God told the Israelites to expel all foreigners that didn't follow Him from the land, so that the Israelites wouldn't be drawn away from God by being immersed in an ungodly culture.
 - That doesn't mean we should do the same today. What God was doing with the Israelites was unique. He was establishing the foundation for a godly nation.
 - God's goal has always been that His people would be a light to the rest of the world (Deuteronomy 4:5-8, Matthew 5:13-16)
 - When we live our life like God tells us to, the results of that life are attractive to others.
 - Today, we are called to be in the world, but different than ungodly people in the world.
 - Our goal is to prepare our kids and grandkids to be godly in a worldly culture.
 - This partnership of family and church helps us in many ways.
 - To Remember, to bring accountability, to encourage, to help us keep a Christian culture in our life

For Small Group Discussion

Opening Question: Have you ever set a trap before? Were you successful in catching your prey?

Main Point: God spoke about the traps that we would face: distractions and ungodly beliefs (idols), our internal battles (pride), and external traps (culture).

Main Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:10-21

Head Questions

- From this week's message, what traps did you hear discussed? What traps do you see outlined in the scripture above?
- What would you consider to be the biggest traps facing our next generation?

Heart Questions

- What idols are tempting for this culture to worship? What are potential idols in your life?
- How has pride kept you or people you know from fully following Jesus?
- What traps in our current culture have the potential to get you off track?

Hands Questions

- What is the difference between *protecting* the next generation and *preparing* them? Is there a reason/season for both?
- What stories can you share with your family of what God has done for you (like the Israelites did with the generations that followed their rescue from Egypt)?

Additional Scripture: Malachi 4:6, Hebrews 12:1-3

Tips and Resources: *The Revolutionary Disciple* by Jim Putman