

## Deuteronomy Ch. 13

Vs1-3

What is God saying here? He's saying that we're not to walk by our feelings or even by sight, but rather we are to walk by faith with His word as our absolute for our guide in life and our discernment. We seem to (as people) have this strange sort of fascination with the supernatural, and yet the man who looks to the supernatural as an evidence of truth is treading on dangerous ground. Just because someone is able to bring about some type of supernatural phenomenon that doesn't have any scientific explanation as to how this could come to pass, doesn't qualify someone as from God or that sign as sent from God. Satan is a deceiver, and we know according to the bible that he is able to bring about all kinds of legitimate miraculous types of signs and wonders. And so we're not to look to the miraculous as a criteria for truth, and the person who is looking to the miraculous is as I said standing upon very dangerous ground. The bible tells us that when the anti-Christ comes on the scene that he's going to *come "according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders."* And will deceive many, and if it were possible even the very elect, we read in the book of Revelation that the false prophet will be able to call fire down from heaven and all sorts of things. And these things will be part of what he uses as his credentials to be a man that the people can trust and depend on. And the whole time he will be turning them a way from God and leading them right into the hands of Satan himself. And so this type of fascination with the supernatural can be unhealthy as well for our spiritual health and well being and we need not to become absorbed in the supernatural but rather instead we need to become consumed with Jesus Christ and more and more familiar with Him and His word so that we might discern what's from Him and what's not. And God is telling them here that the reason that He would even allow this type of individual to rise up in their midst is to see whether or not they'll remain loyal to Him and deny even their own feelings and emotions, and trust His word.

Vs4

In other words it doesn't matter how "fascinating" the miraculous may seem it doesn't officiate someone as sent from God, if their message contradicted God's word, than they were never sent from God, and He's the One that we're to be obedient to and hold fast to.

Vs5-

God is basically saying that a false prophet, the man that seeks to deceive you or lead you astray is like a cancer and it's malignant and needs to be cut out and destroyed or else it will kill the whole body. You've heard it before, the healthy body purges poison and if that body is unable to purge toxins then that body dies. And Paul said it only takes a little leaven to leaven or permeate the whole lump, that's why he said "*Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.*"

In other words as painful as the surgery may be, it's absolutely necessary to remove those things that will entice us to sin and to remove those people from our midst because bad company corrupts good morals. And if you love Jesus more than anything or anyone else then you'll be willing to sever yourself from those people who are seeking to entice you away from the truth.

#### Vs6-8

There it is, Jesus said "*He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.*" So you aren't to conceal peoples sin when they're seeking to entice you away from the truth but rather the bible tells us to reveal it. Paul said, "*have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.*" You've got to love God more, the any other person or thing in your life, God wants us to be a pure and undefiled people and sometimes Jesus said a man's enemies will be the people of his own home. Those people that are closest to us, no one and ever said it was easy to follow after Jesus, it's part of the cost that we have to be able to count. Even if it's our own family that tries to lead us away from Jesus Christ we're to get out from under that influence and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. Now I'm not insinuating that we're to go out and kill them, because that's not what we're to do. But we are to take the necessary means to remove ourselves from that type of temptation and influence. If you struggle with alcohol and every time you go over to your brothers house or your uncles house he always pops a beer and won't quit bugging you to lighten up and have a beer with him, then just quit going to his house. Love the Lord more, (you see) now for them, because God was wanting them to be an example in purity to the nations around them and a people with out compromise He says in vs 9

#### Vs9-11

Now for us we might consider the NT counterpart again to "*put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*" Whatever needs to go, needs to go, be it an object an unhealthy friendship or whatever.

#### Vs12-18

Again another example of how a little leaven leavens the whole lump. Now they weren't to go out and destroy and whole city on hearsay, but rather they were to inquire and seek out the truth and see if it were indeed happening. And if it was in fact true that an entire city had fallen into idolatry, then they were to treat them as a pagan city and destroy them completely. So that they as a nation wouldn't become infected and corrupted by the worship of these pagan gods that these people were worshipping and lose their rights and place with in the land.

So ch 13 instructs us on 3 different ways that corruption or deception can creep in and lead us astray. It can come through a false prophet who tries to persuade and manipulate through lying signs and wonders. It can come even through a close friendship or a family member, those people who we would never suspect to seek to do us harm in a million years and yet they aren't exempt from the ploys of the enemy and being used to lead people astray. Or it may come through an entire group of people, of course it always starts with one but the more people they get to rally on their side concerning an issue, the more weight it seems to carry when they present something to you and so many other people see it the same way and so if you don't then you must be out of line. Be careful you guys because it doesn't matter what miraculous things you may see, it doesn't matter how close to you, you may think a certain person is, or how many people share the same point of view. If the things they purport are not biblically supported than they're to be rejected and cut off. And what's basically being said here is what are you going to trust, God's word, or the ploys of man no matter how convincing they may seem. Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.