

March 9th, 2025

Sermon: Our Faithful: The Shema

Main text: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does this story tell me about God?

2. What does this story tell me about people (or about myself)?

3. If this is God's word for my life, how will I obey it?

4. Who am I, going to tell?

Key points, and quotes to reflect on and discuss from Craigs message:

Question - Do you have important words in your life you attempt to live by? Like a phrase, or slogan/mantra?

Transition - Our passage today is the Shema... these foundational words that have shaped the Jewish faith (daily prayers) and, also followers of Jesus... begins with the word, Hear, the English translation from the Hebrew, 'Shema'.

But this is not the Hebrew understanding of the word. The word Shema means...

To hear – did you hear me?

To Pay Attention or Focus – are you listening to me? (husbands watching the game on TV and your wives might ask you this?)

To respond or to act – are you going to doing something about what I said?

• there's no Hebrew word for obey... Shema captures both.

Craig makes this great point about hearing or listening this Shema word...

“The Shema is about listening and obeying... or hearing and doing

o And being a follower of Jesus is the same... hearing Jesus and following him

o sermon on the mount... the wise and foolish builders... Jesus said ‘everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like the wise builder who built his house on the rock... and it survived the storm’

o James – don’t just be hearers of the word but doers as well

• The invitation for us today is to hear... to listen closely, and also to respond”

“Scripture – read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and pray

• 2 parts to this passage – something to Pay attention to, and then what to do (Shema)”

2. Do This...

• If the Shema is about hearing and doing... and we've heard that God is the One true God, and He's our God, we've entered this new covenant relationship with Him, then what is our response? What are we to do?

• Commit to Loving God with your whole being – read Deut 6:5

• Commit to being a Disciple (passionate follower of Jesus) who's making disciples – read Deut 6:6-9

“A word of caution or warning – read Deut 6:10-12

• **Forgetfulness in the comforts and conveniences of life**

• **Calling for active faith to combat our inclination to forgetfulness**

o **“People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith and delight in the Lord.” D.A. Carson**

• **Active Faith vs. Passive Faith**

Lent as a season to embrace our formation with intention and action, not just passively sitting back – instead - to evaluate our love for God, our commitment to growing as a disciple

o **Rocks – something you're carrying? Connect to Ash Wednesday - wilderness**

• **Repent of or cast-off sin, unhealthy habits, distractions to our love for God and faith formation**

• **Receive or embrace new habits, rhythms, etc for loving God and faith formation”**