

The Love of God – Dt. 4:32-40

³² “For ask now concerning the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether *any* great *thing* like this has happened, or *anything* like it has been heard. ³³ Did *any* people *ever* hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and live? ³⁴ Or did God *ever* try to go *and* take for Himself a nation from the midst of *another* nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? ³⁵ To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself *is* God; *there is* none other besides Him. ³⁶ Out of heaven He let you hear His voice, that He might instruct you; on earth He showed you His great fire, and you heard His words out of the midst of the fire. ³⁷ And because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them; and He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power, ³⁸ driving out from before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land as an inheritance, as *it is* this day. ³⁹ Therefore know this day, and consider *it* in your heart, that the LORD Himself *is* God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; *there is* no other. ⁴⁰ You shall therefore keep His statutes and His commandments which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong *your* days in the land which the LORD your God is giving you for all time.”

Open: How has God demonstrated his love for you specifically (not for everyone in general)?

→What words in the passage need to be explained for you?

NOTE: Moses is speaking to the people of Israel.

1. List the things that the Moses lists that the people of Israel have seen God do. (vv. 32-34)
2. Why did God show these things to Israel? (v. 35)
3. What did God do for the love of the Israelite forefathers? (v. 37)
4. The how are the “driven out” nations described in v. 38?
5. What area the people to “know”, according to Moses? (v. 39)
6. Since they know this, what should they do? (v. 40)
7. What will be the ultimate result? (v. 40)

Apply

- What have you seen God do?
- Do you “know” the things in v. 39?
- If you know this, what should you do?
- Which statutes and commandments do you find easy to do?
- Which ones are difficult for you?

What defines us is not what we think—not the set of ideas we assent to—but rather what we believe, the commitments and trusts that orient our being-in-the-world.

Being a disciple of Jesus is not primarily a matter of getting the right ideas and doctrines and beliefs into your head in order to guarantee proper behavior; rather, it's a matter of being the kind of person who loves rightly—who loves God and neighbor and is oriented to the world by the primacy of that love.

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