

GOD IS FAITHFUL

Deuteronomy 32:48-52

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Have you ever been a member of a church or group that had a pastor or leader so long that they were the only leader you had known? In what ways do you think that a pastor or leader's departure - whether by death, taking a new job, or misconduct - affects you and the community/group?
- Have you ever wondered if God was punishing you or someone else for your life choices, sinful thoughts, or sinful actions? What circumstances led you to this question?

The book of Deuteronomy concludes by recording the death of Moses. At first glance, it might seem like a typical record of a person's death, even though Moses' end of life experience was actually one of a kind. However, further review reveals that the closing events of Moses' life hold significant lessons that speak directly to two troubling questions that plague believers: "Is God punishing me?" and "How can I go on when the only thing I've ever known is gone?" And we can take heart in the fact that the answers to these important questions assure us of the same eternal truth -- God is faithful.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Why is it hard for us to differentiate between consequences and punishment?
- How does it comfort you to know God is faithful, even though we sometimes need to live through the consequences of our sinful choices?
- Is it acceptable to hold our leaders and our pastors to higher standards? How do we balance that with recognizing and forgiving their humanity?
- Consider the conversation hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee have in segment 2 regarding the implications Moses' disobedience had on God's holiness. Reflect on times you've experienced the church acting like Moses, claiming a title or role that rightfully belongs to God. How did this affect the church's followers and potential followers? Did it shape or change people's view of God as a result?
- How have you seen God's faithfulness during and following a time of loss?

Related Passages

- **Mark 9:2-4**
- **Psalms 51**
- **Lamentations 3:22-23**

- **Romans 3**

Conclusion

King David was a significant leader of the Israelite nation; yet he succumbed to temptation, committed adultery, and endured the consequence of losing his son. Yet David is known as “a man after God’s own heart.” Read and reflect on Psalm 51, the psalm David wrote after the prophet Nathan came to him with God’s word in response to David’s adultery with Bathsheba. Consider how this psalm, like the story of Moses’ death, also shows God’s faithfulness to his people.

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