

“I Need a New Moses” // Deuteronomy 18:15–17 // *The Whole Story #13*

EASTER REPORT

- I haven’t had a chance yet to celebrate with you what we saw God do here at Easter.
- We had right at **13,000 people**. We had over 100 professions of faith that weekend. Last weekend, 82 people were baptized, and we believe a bunch more will join that number today.
- **Just as exciting**, Summit Church, the churches we’ve planted in the US had a combined attendance of about 10,000, which is up 44% from last year.
- And maybe best of all, 162 churches we’ve planted internationally celebrated Easter with us. Some for the first time. These are churches that didn’t exist until you planted them, many in Unreached People Groups around the world.
- It’s amazing, and I hope we never take for granted, how God is multiplying this church around the world.

As I mentioned, at the **end of this message**, I’m going to give many of you a **chance to be baptized** this weekend—right here, on the spot, if you never have before. We **have all the stuff**; we’re **ready** for you; I’ll give you **more instructions** at the end of the service.

Works Consulted:

Tyler David, “Jesus, the True and Better Moses”

Zach Lee, “Jesus, the True and Better Moses”

Judah Smith, “Jesus Is Better than Moses and Joshua”

Charles Spurgeon, “The Prophet Like Unto Moses”

Tim Keller, “Choose Life”

Tim Keller, “Knowing God”

David Platt, “Choose to Live”

Kevin DeYoung, “Taking God at His Word”

BIBLE: Deut 18... **Have you ever had the experience of meeting** some kind of celebrity, and when you met them in person you were surprised at how small they were, compared to what they seemed like on screen?

- Tom Cruise was famous for that (2 pics of Cruise) Put airplane one up, and for 2nd one I’ll say, “This is actually him.”)
- I know of a guy who met Arnold Schwarzenegger (1 pic) and said the same thing.

I’m no celebrity, obviously, but sometimes when I meet people at other campuses who have only seen me before on a screen, they’ll say, *“Oh, I’ve never met you in person. You’re so...”* and I know they are thinking, *“disappointing.”*

- And then there are people who **just don’t recognize me at all** at other campuses.
 - I visited **one of our campuses not long ago** and a very friendly lady came up and said, “Hi, are you new here?” And I said, “sort of.” She looked down **at my wedding ring** and said, *‘You know, if you have kids, we have great kids ministries here!’* I said, ‘I know, I’ve heard!’
 - At one of our campuses these 2 girls came up to me and said, “Will you take a picture?” And I thought, “Oh, that’s sweet. They want a picture with their pastor. Probably to put on their Facebook wall to say how much my messages mean to them.” And, I kid you not, this girl hands me her camera and says, *“Get me and my friend over here with this Summit sign in the background.”*

For Jewish people, Moses was larger than life. He was the **deliverer**. Their **national founding father**. The **law giver**. In many ways, the **architect** of their faith. **George Washington**, Abraham Lincoln, and Billy Graham all wrapped up into one.

He was **revered in life** and even more so after death. When he died, God had to **hide his bones** so that the Israelites didn't dig them up and worship them.¹

(Deut 18:15–17)

So there is no doubt that **Moses really surprised** them in **Deut 18:15** when he said, in his final sermon to them, **"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—"**

- **Moses ends his life pointing to a new prophet**—a better prophet, he is saying—who would do for them **what Moses had been** unable to accomplish.

Moses, you see, in many ways, **had been a failure**.

He had **given the law to the Israelites faithfully** but been unable to get the people to actually obey the law.

The **history of Exodus through Deuteronomy reads** like one long continuous list of failures.

- In Exodus 32, **right after God gives the law** (the cement was still wet on the tablets), **Moses gets delayed** on the mountain so the people panic and take off their jewelry and melt it down to make a replacement god, which they start to dance around worship it with all these pagan sex acts. The scene looked like what Franklin St. would have looked like on Monday night had things gone **slightly differently...**

- Then there was the incident at a **place called Massah**: They were running short on water and so they said, "God, you've forsaken us" and they hatch a plot to **kill Moses and return to Egypt**.
 - Keep in mind, this is after they've seen God split the Red Sea for them and provide Manna from heaven. But they're like, "Yeah, **I know you just ended 4 centuries of slavery**, miraculously split an ocean in half, and dropped 500 metric tons of bread every morning out of the sky...but what have you done for us lately?"
- **Last week Pastor Jason showed us** how the people doubted God when he told them he'd drive the giants out the land.

Moses had been able to deliver Israel from their slavery in Egypt but not from their slavery to **idolatry and unbelief**. The **giants of Canaan were not** nearly as fearsome as the giants of sin and fear in their hearts.

Furthermore, Moses had been **unable really to bridge the gap** between them and God. Even with all the complex system of sacrifices, a **gigantic curtain** remained between the people and God that they could never go behind without dying.

So God says, **"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.'¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers."**

- You see, **the people had a problem**. Even with Moses, and a perfectly given law, the people **couldn't stand** in the presence of God, because they had sinful hearts. And **what God had always wanted**—what he had created us for—was for us to be in his

¹ Deut 34:6, at least, that is the mostly likely explanation for why God hid them.

presence, to be closer to him than any earthly relationship—to be his sons and daughters, his friends!

Furthermore, Moses turned out to be a **deeply flawed leader**.

- Moses had himself been **sinful and unbelieving**: In Numbers 20, the Israelites were in another one of their complaining fits, again about where they were going to get water.
 - **So God tells Moses**, “Go out, **speak to the rock** in front of everyone and I’ll make water flow out of it.”
 - But Moses is ticked so he walks out and says, “You fools. You hard-hearted heathens, and **instead of speaking to the rock**, like God had said, he *hit it twice* instead.²
 - You say, “Well, **what’s the difference?**” It **communicates something** different.
 - Every parent knows that if one of your kids come down and says, “Hey, my brother won’t give me my ball back” and you say, “Well go speak to him and tell him I said to give it back” and your kid goes up and says, “Hey, this is from mom” and punches his brother in the mouth, that’s not the same thing.
 - God said that this was **more than just frustration** and impatience on Moses’ part; it was **unbelief** and a lack of love.³ Moses **failed them as a leader**. Moses’ **love had its limits**.

So Moses says, “**I am not the final prophet you need**. There’s another one coming, and he is much greater than me. **As big as I** have been to you, I’m not big enough. This **coming prophet** will do what I have never been able to do. I could explain the law accurately, but I **couldn’t lead you to obey it**.”

² Moses’ pride is also revealed in how he says, “Shall **we** bring water out of the rock for you again?” Uh, excuse me, Moses, **we?** What Moses, you are equal to God now? Moses has become pretty prideful.

Let me stop before we go any farther and tell you why that is so important for us. Just like with Israel:

1. We need a law that can change us

- For most of us, the **problem is not that we** don’t know we should be different; **our problem is that** we can’t make ourselves be different.
- We know we should be “**more honest**,” “more moral.” “More diligent.” “More loving.” “More courageous.” The problem is not that we don’t know these things; we just can’t make ourselves that way.
 - The **law is like railroad tracks**, laying out for us the way to go, but unable to move the car along the tracks. It **can tell us the direction** we should go; but can’t provide the power.
- What Luther called “the **dilemma of the Great Commandment**”
 - The dilemma of the Great Commandment is that **if you don’t love something**, you can’t be commanded to love it.
 - The flip side of the dilemma is that if you do love it, you don’t need to be commanded to love it. (eat a steak, etc.)
 - **“What the law requires is freedom from the law!”**⁴
 - I haven’t told this story in a while... Neck warmer

2. Our greatest enemies are within us, not outside us

- Just like the Israelites, we **think the problem is “out there.”** It’s the **giants of disease or debt or divorce**. Or, it’s the **Pharaoh of a bad boss or bad marriage or low self-esteem**.
- And we say, “God, we need another Moses (we **don’t phrase it that way**, of course)—but we need a political or economic deliverer—to come and save us.”
 - ...Someone who can bring **hope and change** or **make America great again** or whatever. “We need someone to

³ Num. 20:12

⁴ Paraphrase of Luther on Matthew 22:37–39, in Gerhard Forde *On Being a Theologian of the Cross: Reflections on Luther’s Heidelberg Disputation, 1518, 29*.

find a cure for cancer. Someone to make us all prosperous.”

- That’s what people **were still looking for when Jesus came.**
 - **When Jesus first showed up** and started to do all the miracles, they were like (John 1:21), *“Hey, are you that new Prophet that Moses promised?”*⁵ *Because all the miracles and the food production sure make it seem like you are. If so, eliminate the Romans, wipe out our **debt and disease**, and give us that **better life** Moses promised.”*
- They **still hadn’t learned this lesson** Moses was trying to teach them: Your **greatest enemies are inside you**, not outside you.
 - **Nerd moment:** In the **early 20th century** there was a group of socialist-pacifists in America and Great Britain who believed that man’s problem was oppressive government structures, poverty, or lack of education. Man was **basically good**; his **environment had just messed** him up.
 - After WW2, a bunch of them **totally and radically changed** their outlook.
 - **David Cecil** said, *“The philosophy of progress had led us to believe that the savage and primitive was behind us, but it turns out that it was within us.”*⁶
- **All they did** was discover what Moses **illustrated 3000 years before:** No law, no liberation—no external or circumstantial changes—can transform the heart of man. We need **something**

⁵ John 1:21, 45; 5:46

⁶ **Dorothy Sayers**, one of this group who became a full-fledged Christian after WW2, said: We were given to believe that we are essentially good human beings evolving into higher, better beings; that we were essentially teachable, and so to us *“the appalling outbursts of bestial ferocity in the totalitarian states, and the obstinate selfishness and senseless greed of capitalist society are not merely shocking and alarming. For (us), these things are the utter negation of everything in which (we) have believed.”* Sayers, *Creed or Chaos?*

⁷ 1 John 4:19; Martin Luther, *Lectures on Galatians 1535: Chapters 1–4*, LW 26. Edited by Jaroslav Pelikan. Saint Louis, Mo.: Concordia Publishing House, 1963. “I am saying this in order to refute the **dangerous doctrine** (*perniciosa doctrina*, or “damnable doctrine”) of the

different; something more powerful than even a perfect law can supply.

3. We need someone who will love us unconditionally

- **In order for real love for God to grow** in us, we needed leader who will show us **perfect and unconditional** love. All of our life we’ve **craved that unconditional love**, and until we find it, our hearts are fearful and distressed.
 - I told you a couple of weeks ago about **Martin Luther, the Catholic monk** who put forward this idea that God’s love is a gift he gives us unconditionally when we receive it in Christ. The Church of his day said, Martin, if you remove the threat of punishment, people will lose the will to obey.” Luther said, **“Quite the opposite. Being afraid of judgment will produces a surface-level adherence** to the law, he said, but beneath that thin veneer of obedience will rush a river of fear, pride, and self-interest.”⁷
 - **If I beat my kids mercilessly** every time they disobey, that may curb their behavior. But underneath that... they would have hate, fear, and rebellion. **Only in the context of unconditional love** will they **learn to love and trust** me and grow up to be healthy, mature, loving adults. So, **yes, I discipline them**, but I make clear that nothing they can do will change my love for them.

sophists and the monks, who taught and believed that no one can know for a certainty whether he is in a state of grace, even if he does good works according to his ability and lives a blameless life... *This wicked idea, on which the entire kingdom of the pope rests, is one that you young people should flee and regard with horror as a dangerous plague.”* (LW 26:377. Emphasis added.) Also, *“Let us thank God, therefore, that we have been delivered from this monster of uncertainty (hoc monstro incertitudinis)* and that now we can believe for a certainty that the Holy Spirit is crying and issuing that sigh too deep for words in our hearts. And this is our foundation: The Gospel commands us to look, not at our own good deeds or perfections but at God Himself as He promises, and at Christ Himself, the Mediator. By contrast the pope commands us to look, not at God as He promises, not at Christ our High Priest, but at our own works and merits. From the latter course, doubt and despair necessarily follow; but from the former, certainty and the joy of the Spirit.” (LW 26:386–387. Emphasis added.)

- *That's what we need from a Deliverer; because that's the only way true righteousness will grow in our hearts.*
 - True virtue grows only in the soil of security.
 - **Only in the security of God's love** for us will love for God grow in us.

And finally...

4. We need someone who can actually bridge the gap between God and us.

- Moses' law is effective at showing us **how sinful** we are and **how terrible** our sin is.
 - Last week my wife and I were on a trip with our daughter who turned 13, and we were **staying in a hotel**... My wife, *"Don't touch the bedspread!"* Because she's seen that special where Oprah takes the bluelight and reveals all the contaminants on the bedspread... Everywhere. Bodily fluids. Gross. The law is like that bluelight. It can reveal the filth of our hearts, by showing us how warped and deformed our heart is, but it can't change our hearts.
- **If you want to clean the hotel room, you can Lyso!** the room, or take off the bedspreads. Or, in my case, **just ignore it** and be happy. But how **can we cleanse** our hearts?

So what Moses promises is extremely relevant to us to us:

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—"

(18:15). Two important characteristics of this coming prophet. First, Moses said, he'd be someone "like me." This prophet he is pointing to is Jesus. **Consider this:**

- Like Moses, Jesus was a **Jew**.
- Like Moses, Jesus was **born during a time** when Israel was oppressed.
- Like Moses, when **Jesus was born a local leader tried to kill** all the Hebrew boys.

- Like Moses, Jesus **chose to leave his royal family** to identify with his people.
- Like Moses, Jesus **spent time in the wilderness** before his ministry began. For Moses, it was 40 years; for Jesus, 40 days.
- Like Moses, Jesus **delivered his people from great danger**. *When Israel stood* between a gigantic body of water and an angry Egyptian army, Moses stretched out his hands and parted the waters of the Red Sea.
 - *When we were pinned between the sea* of our sin and the wrath of God, and Jesus stretched out his hands and opened up for us a path through the waters of God's wrath to safety.
- **Like Moses, Jesus gave a law**—Moses gave his law from Mt. Sinai with the **warning**: *"If you do this, consistently, you will live."*
 - **Jesus' law was also given from a mountain; it was called "the Sermon on the Mount."** But he told the people, "You can **never keep this law**; so I'll keep it for you, suffer the penalty for your not keeping it, and then keep it through you."
- **Moses had them sacrifice a Lamb** at Passover and put the blood on their doorposts of their homes; Jesus sacrificed himself and **put his blood on the doorposts** of our heart so that the wrath of God would pass over us.
- **Moses had them bring** a lamb each year as a substitutionary sacrifice to atone for their sin. Jesus gave himself as that **substitutionary lamb** whose blood once and for all satisfied the penalty against our sins.
- Jesus was the **scapegoat sent into the wilderness** bearing our guilt on his head.
- He was the **bronze serpent lifted up** so we could be healed; the **rock struck by the anger of God** so we could drink of the water of life; the **manna that dropped from heaven** so that we could be filled with the bread of life.
- Everything that Moses gave in shadow, Jesus was in substance.

- And... **unlike Moses**, Jesus' blood actually cleaned us so that we could be safe in God's presence. Moses left the curtain in place. Jesus tore it in two.
 - No obedience in religion—no keeping of the law—can cleanse us.
 - **Illus.** I sat with a group of Muslims... (Me trying to explain to Muslims the significance of Jesus' death.)
 - His blood does what no ritual or no law can do for us.
- Most importantly, unlike Moses: **this new prophet never grows weary** with us or falters in obedience.
 - He lived without sin; no guile or deceit was ever found in his mouth.
 - **Jesus didn't get mad and strike** the rock in frustration, like Moses did; **in love he took** the stroke of justice so we could escape it.
- **Jesus is the truer and better Moses.**

(Here's the other thing. Moses said he'd be ("~~The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me~~ **from among you, from your brothers.**")

- **He would be a Jew. Muslims try to say that this prophecy refers to Mohammad:** Mohammad was the promised prophet and gave a new and better law.
 - But Mohammad wasn't a Jew, so this couldn't be talking about him.
- **More importantly, God was saying that this Savior** would be human, like us. In order to bridge the gap between God and us, this coming prophet would have to be both God and man.
 - I have a friend who said that when he was a kid there was a kid next door who had one of those "big wheels" with the **huge, green wheel** you couldn't see over—a certain way to find death—and next door there was an empty lot, and there were carpenter ant hills and so he would smear jelly all over it and all the carpenter ants would, I don't know... put the news on Facebook, or something, "free jelly for

everyone...: And after they would all come out he would come tearing through on his big wheel and skid around over top all of the ants. My friend said, "*I'm no ant lover, but I felt sorry for the ants, but there was nothing I could do to warn them.*" If I tried to go over there and tell the ants and say, "Behold ants, you will be crushed" they would not listen... all they would say is, "Look how big that boot is" and they would hide. But if I could go down and become an ant—grow up and learn to speak ant language, gain credibility, then I could say, "Ants, follow me. We are going to go across the street to this other lot because this kid's mom only lets him ride his bike in the driveway..." I could say, "*I know the jelly taste sweet, but that only last for a little while and then you will be crushed.*"

- That is sort of what Jesus did with us.
- Jesus was the better Moses—God from heaven, born as a man, who came not only to teach us, but deliver us.)

So, now that you know that, let's spend just a couple of minutes on the **two primary** themes from Moses' sermon in Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy is one long sermon, given as Moses' last words to the people after they had failed... his message is even more important to us because we know the real Prophet he was talking about. The heart of it is in chapter 6.

Two themes:

I. Remember:

- He repeats this command some 24 times in Deuteronomy.
- Israel's **spiritual wandering were always** marked by a time of spiritual forgetting. **Not that they actually couldn't remember**, just that these things were not prominent in their minds.

So what does he want them to remember? Vs. 12

"...Take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." (6:12).

A. The slavery of sin

- Remember **the slavery that sin** had led you to. You need to stop and think about that.
- **Some of you can look** at your own life and remember. Do you remember **where you were** without God? Do you remember **what your life was like**? Do you want to **go back** there?
- **Some of you are young**, raised in Christian homes and you don't have life scarred by sin yet—thank God. You need to **think about where sinful choices** will take you. You have a choice right now—a life of freedom and blessing and goodness that leads to eternal life, or one of bondage and bitterness and dissatisfaction and strain that leads to hell!

B. That you've been delivered!

- (“...Take care lest you forget the LORD, who **brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**” (6:12).)
- Don't just forget that you were in slavery; don't forget that God has brought you out! God's deliverance process is not just God taking us out of bondage, but God taking the spirit of bondage out of us!
 - Imagine an **infant boy** taken into the foster care system and placed into a home where father who abuses him. The boy spends the first 5 years of his life there. This dad never tells this boy he loves him. He calls him names and demeans hm. One day this dad comes home drunk, kicks open the door, and knocks out one of the little boy's teeth. This little boy doesn't have a bed. He has to sleep in the corner of a room; not in pajamas; his dad barely feeds him, much less buy his pajamas. He never gets toys or games. This little boy, when he's at school, has to borrow food from his friends and stick it in his pockets, so that way when he goes home he's got something to eat.

Then one day, CPS takes this child away and he is adopted by a good family, with a good father. The dad starts to speak life into the boy. He says things like, "I'm proud of you." Or, "I love you." The boy has never in his life heard those words. He's never experienced unconditional love!

This father cleans him up, buys him new clothes. Gives him a bed and toys and lots of things to eat.

One night the father walks into the kid's bedroom, and the little boy is sleeping on the floor. The father goes up and goes, "You don't have to sleep on the floor anymore; you can sleep in the bed. That was your old family. This is a new family now. You're loved and cherished here."

Sometimes when the father comes home the little boy hides in the closet. The dad says, "You don't have to do that anymore either. I'll never hurt you. *I love you.*" One night at the dinner table, the dad sees the little boy taking food and shoving it into his pockets. The dad says, "You don't have to do that anymore. I'll never let you go hungry. This is your new family."

This is the story of every Christian.

- **Sin has damaged us** so that we live with a sense of fear and under the dread of condemnation. **But in Christ**, God has made you part of a new family.
- **That means we don't have to live under this cloud of condemnation**, where we expect to keep suffering for past mistakes. "*Oh, you're divorced; you messed up; you got fired; things are over for you.*"
 - No, for there is **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus; the old is gone, the new has come.

- We **don't have to live with the fear that** we're going to be abandoned and end up in poverty.
 - **Because my God shall supply** all your need. He knows **every hair** on your head...
 - I can **lay down every night** in the assurance that **surely goodness and mercy** shall follow you all the days of your life, and that **he that did not spare** his own Son for you will now also freely give you all things.
- You don't have to **feel shame because** God has **chosen** you and cleansed you and changed you, and you are **his workmanship**
- You **don't have to compete** any longer for the approval of others to prove to yourself you have worth. In Christ, you have the absolute approval of the only one whose opinion really matters.
- You're a **new person**, adopted into a new family, with a new Father; you are a cherished son or daughter who will **never be forgotten**. *Now live that way.*⁸

C. The graciousness of the God who saved you

- "...Take care lest you forget *the LORD*, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." (6:12).
 - He says, "**Remember the character** of the God who saved you."
 - It is **when you forget** that your heart starts to wander!
 - **Grasping the trustworthiness** of God is what enables us to obey God joyfully. When you **really trust him**, you'll obey him gladly!
- In fact, look at this: Moses anticipates a convo between dad and son: **Deut 6:20**,²⁰ "When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the LORD our God has commanded you?' The son can't

understand the meaning of the rules. Dad, why did God make these rules?" Do you say, "Well, son, you see, these rules make for the best way to live. Sex within marriage leads to a happier life" Or, "**Doctors have shown, son, that our we need one day of rest**—that when our heart rate slows and our mind idles it makes us more productive the other 6 days." You could say all that, but that's not what God said to tell them here." When your son²¹ then you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.²² And the LORD showed signs and wonders... before our eyes.²⁴ And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day.

- **Why do we obey, son?** Because the God who gave us these rules delivered us, and we trust him.
- **Why do we obey, Summit?** Because the God who gave us these rules cared so much for us that he gave up his own life for us before he'd let us perish!
 - **They had the deliverance of the Red Sea;** we have the deliverance of Mt. Calvary. We have even more reason to obey than they did.
- **High school student: Does it make any sense to say** that you believe that Jesus cared enough to die and was powerful enough to raise from the dead but you don't trust what he says about sex and marriage? Or that you can't trust him with your life.
- **All our trust in God is founded** upon what we saw him do for us in the cross.
 - I saw a movie last week called "**Miracles from Heaven.**" A little girl gets deathly sick and her **mother really struggles with faith**. But some amazing things happen and she learns to believe again... it's an **amazing movie based on a**

⁸ I adapt this illustration liberally from Zach Lee, in "Jesus, the Better Moses," preached at ASCC.

true story, but the one thing it leaves out is **why we trust God**. Why believe in God in the midst of pain?

- It's because of the cross. That's where I see the depth of his love for me.
- **Why do I trust God even when I can't understand what he is doing?** Because *I know that if Jesus* didn't leave me then, when I was his enemy, surely he will not leave me now that I am his child.
- **And so, the old proverb goes**, even when I can't see his hand, I'll trust his heart.
- As you get older in the faith, the **cross needs to get larger** (more dominant) in your life, to the point it becomes the filter through which you see everything, because that will give you joy in obedience and the ability to walk confidently through trials.

He says, "Remember these things. Because when you remember, your walk with me will be joyful and obedience will come naturally." Some of you need to take time to remember these things.

Remembering the gospel is what brings power and joy to the Christian life.

So, command 1 is to remember; command 2 is...

II. Cling to the word

Deut 6:6, And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way (that's your family life and work life), and when you lie down, and when you rise (morning and night). 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes (hand: actions; head: thoughts). 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house (in your household) and on your gates (in your political thinking).

- **Cling to this word**, because **these promises** are everything
- **God has placed all of this power into the word.**
 - By a word, God spoke the worlds into existence. By a word, Jesus gave sight to the blind and made the lame walk
 - By a word God raised Jesus from the dead.
 - It is by his word that **God brings salvation** to the believing heart; it is by the word he breaks the chains of addiction; by the word he pieces back together the broken shards of your marriage; by the word renews and transforms your children,
 - This word is light, life, and salvation. It redeems, reconciles, restores, and renews...
- It's **not an empty word**, Moses says (Deut 32:47); it is life itself.
- Don't **you want to know** it? Don't you want your kids to know it?
- That's why we are doing the **Whole Story** this year. **A year where** we go through the Bible in our messages each weekend; each week in our small groups; where we read the Bible through as individuals and take our kids through it as well.

First things first: some of you need to be baptized.

- "Going public"
- "Not that important."
 - Who are you to tell God what is important. Is that how you want to begin your walk with Jesus?
 - Starting you relationship with god.
- "I rode with people." They'll wait. This is why they brought you. You can Uber. How many Uber drivers here?
- "I was baptized as a baby."
 - Every time in Scripture, it happens after conversion. Acts 2 "believed and were baptized," Acts 8 "he believed and coming up on a body of water he said, "here is water, what hinders me..." If you believe with all your heart, you may." Acts 16 / the centurion believed and was baptized, he and

his house. We have whole families that need to be baptized!

- Don't see it as a repudiation of your parent's faith; see it as a fulfillment of it!
- "My hair." We have everything you need.
- 80-some last week, a bunch last night!
- **Don't put it off.** You've **either said yes or no.**
 - **You say, "I haven't said, 'no,' just 'not yet.'"** **Delayed obedience** is disobedience. **It is disobedience to put off until tomorrow something that God has told you to do today.**

