

Enough is Enough!

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

- I. *For today.*
- II. *For eternity.*

Do you have enough? Do you feel like you are in need? Perhaps everyone here would like to have something more in their life: perhaps it could be a new car, a new job, if you are younger maybe it could be something as simple as wanting a new toy. It seems like no matter who you are or how old you are there is always a something that we have our hearts and minds set upon. Problem is, is that we always seem to be wanting more. No matter how much we have there is always a something.

A friend of mine in the ministry once told me on an incident in his own life when he was in a bookstore and he happened across a book he really wanted. He thought it would be a great addition to his already significant library and he justified the expense by telling himself that he certainly would read the book eventually. He bought the book took it home and as he was putting it on the bookshelf he happened to see that he already had a copy of the book! We can get to the point that we can have so much stuff that we may not even know what we already own let alone appreciate or even use. How much is enough? Does one ever get to the point that they don't want anything more? When is enough, enough?

Our text for today comes toward the later part of the fifth and final book of Moses: the book of Deuteronomy. This is greatly important for us to know today because these are some of the final words of instruction, encouragement and prophecy that Moses would give the Israelites. Over forty years before these words of Moses in today's text it was Moses who led the people out of slavery under the oppression of the Egyptians. Of course it wasn't Moses' strength and power that freed the Israelites but it was God using and working through Moses that brought freedom. After the Exodus God boldly and plainly promised to provide for the Israelites all their needs: everything from their food and water, their clothing and shelter to their overall protection. In short God was promising His people enough for everything they would need. Sadly this wasn't enough for the Israelites. They rebelled, they grumbled, they became dissatisfied with the food and with God's delay in bringing them quickly into a land of their own. The book of Numbers deals with this forty year period. So stressful and so burdensome were these grumbling Jews that Moses struck a rock with his staff to bring forth water and thus Moses failed God and himself was not allowed to take the Jews into the promised land. The words of Moses today are words of

warning and encouragement to God's people. Today we want to especially be clear to what God is promising to provide and do for His people.

What does Moses say? **"The Lord your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The Lord will again delight in and make you prosperous, just as delighted in your fathers."** (verse 9). Whose work is this? It is God's work! This is the key that unlocks everything else that Moses says. Only when one has the idea that prosperity is God's work promised freely to those who believe and trust in Him can they understand next what Moses says about obeying God's laws in verse ten. **"If you obey the Lord your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in the Book of the Law and turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul."** Even within these words of Moses we hear the emphasis on one's heart before God. The Jews, like us today, are called first to have our hearts right with God. What is the first commandment? Having God before all things and trusting in Him this is the real heart of the first commandment. Remember Jesus' words: **"The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."** (John 6:29). Moses was not establishing a simple covenant that only to the extent that the Jews would carry out the Ten Commandments only then God would bless His people as a reward for their good behavior. This is why Moses can have the boldness to say that these commands are not too difficult for the Jews to understand and obey, just as they are not too hard for us either.

What God is really calling for here more than anything else is a living trust and hope in Him to provide for all that we need and to guide our ways. The first commandment, **"You shall have no other Gods."** is rather simply explained in the Small Catechism: "We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things." Of course as sinners this is not always easy to do. When God calls us to this faith He makes promises to us that impact our lives this side of heaven and into eternity.

God does not promise that we will be free from struggles, pains and turmoil but God does promise to be with us through all things and God does promise that all things will work together for the good of those who trust in God. Today's Psalm of the day, Psalm 25 has this as its basic message. **"To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul, in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame..."** (Psalm 25:1-3a). God will provide for us both here on earth and into life everlasting. This is God's good promise to us.

Today's gospel is the parable of the Good Samaritan. This is a well known parable which teaches that if you are going to be a genuine follower of Jesus with a heart for God then you will help others in need. This one simple

truth however, does not exhaust all that God is teaching us in this parable. Most often one identifies themselves with the Good Samaritan who is called to help out a person in need; fewer people, however, put themselves in the place of the man who was robbed and left to die. The parable tells us that a man who was robbed and left to die had a good Samaritan come and help him. Who placed that Samaritan in that robbed man's life at that time and at that place? It was God Himself of course. Who was it that softened the heart of that Samaritan to be so gracious and so willing to help another? That credit must be given to God too. What this means for us is a simple reminder that God is at work in the world today and that God does place into our lives those individuals that we need.

Most powerfully the good Samaritan in all of our lives is Jesus who has laid down His life so that our sins may be forgiven. We have been lifted up off the ground and grave of sin and condemnation before God by God Himself! How much more will God provide for our lesser needs when He was so willing to meet our greatest need!

We as a congregation will continue to have needs, we need to help those who are in need within our congregation and of course we are in need to pay our day to day bills. As a congregation with a church building there will always be something we need: today it is anew boiler, tomorrow it will be something else. On top of this there will always be something our congregation wants as well. Both our needs and our wants can be good things as they both motivate and encourage us to grow and to work for God's glory but we never want to forget the simple basic truth that today with God and in and through His word we already have everything we need to be faithful to Him and for life everlasting. God's word is enough; and enough is enough. Amen.