Lesson 7

Online Bible Study “Covenant”

Lessons 1-7 “Creating”

Lesson 7: “Covenant Renewal” Refreshing our Relationship

Letters: Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel

We yearn for healthy relationships that generate satisfying loyal love. Our selfish desires make it difficult to sustain relationships.

Readings:

Day 1: Deuteronomy 5-9 – The Ten Commandments and the greatest commandment.

Day 2: Deuteronomy 29-32 – Old and new covenants.

Day 3: Joshua 1-2; 23-24 – Moses Reinvented.

Day 4: Judges 1-2; 19-21 – Downward Spiral.

Day 5: 1 Samuel 13-15; 28:3-25 – Tragedy of King Saul

Meditation: Deuteronomy 6:4-9 – Renewing the Covenant

Questions:

Deuteronomy 6:1-19 – A portrait of the Covenant

1. Biblical covenants describe community relationships in which members share mutual care for and obligations to each other. What are the human responsibilities and obligations in this covenant? What are the divine responsibilities and obligations?
2. In what ways is Deuteronomy’s covenant similar to and different from the biblical covenants we have already studied in Genesis and Exodus?
3. “Love” in Deuteronomy 6:5 is a term taken from kinship and family relationship in the ancient world. What role does it play in the relationship between God and Israel in the Deuteronomic covenant? What attitudes and actions does it include?
4. How do you think the author of Luke intends us to understand this kind of covenant love when he quotes Deuteronomy 6:5 in his introduction to the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)? Compare Matthew 22:34-40?
5. This covenant is built on a theology of rewards and punishments (Deut. 6:3, 14-19). What do you see as the strengths and weakness of such a theology?
6. What aspects of Deuteronomy’s covenant and of its ancient world do you find problematic for our understanding of covenant today? What aspects do you find life-giving and insightful for faithful community life?