

March 16 Answers

- 1) Moses' Second Sermon — Part 1c (Deut 9–11: General covenant obligations). Moses warned the people not to interpret their victory in the coming conquest as a sign of their own **righteousness**: “God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a **stubborn** people” (Deut 9:6). Moses then reminded them of several incidents in which they had been disobedient and rebellious (Deut 9:7–29). This teaches us the danger of **self-righteousness**. Rather than viewing success as proof of our own goodness and virtue, we need to recognize it as the unmerited **gift** of God's mercy and grace. Anytime we become smug or puffed up over our achievements, we need to remind ourselves of the many times we've **rebelled** against God. This will keep us where we need to be—on our knees in **humility** with heartfelt **gratitude** for God's blessings. Moses finished this part of his sermon by urging the people to love God and **imitate** His love for others. He told them that their personal **experience** of God's great deeds should motivate them to fear and obey Him. Knowing their tendency to **stray**, Moses revealed that God intended to use Canaan's **climate** to discipline them for sin—idolatry would lead to **drought** and **famine**. The choice was theirs: blessing for obedience or cursing for disobedience. This same choice is before us as well. If we value our health and well-being, we will be careful to obey God!