

March 17 Answers

- 1) Moses' Second Sermon — Part 2a (Deut 12–14: Specific covenant obligations). In the first part of his sermon, Moses reviewed the Ten Commandments and exhorted the people to obedience and covenant faithfulness (Deut 5–11). Today's reading begins part two of Moses' sermon (Deut 12–26), where God's laws are explained in **detail** so Israel would know how to live a **holy** life that was pleasing to Him. These laws showed the people how to love **God** and love **others**, and the **principles** behind these laws still apply today (cf. Matt 7:12; Rom 13:9–10). Moses told Israel, "Suppose there are prophets among you...and they promise you signs or miracles, and the predicted signs or miracles occur. If they then say, 'Come, let us worship other gods'...do not listen to them. The LORD your God is **testing** you to see if you truly **love** him with all your heart and soul. Serve only the LORD your God and fear him alone. Obey his commands, listen to his voice, and cling to him" (Deut 13:1–4 NLT). This teaches us that loving God means being faithful to Him alone. This may involve personal **sacrifice**, for God said, "Suppose someone secretly entices you—even your brother, your son or daughter, your beloved **wife**, or your closest **friend**—and says, 'Let us go worship other gods'...Do not give in or listen. Have no pity, and do not spare or protect them. You must put them to **death**! Strike the first blow **yourself**, and then all the people must join in" (Deut 13:6–9 NLT). This shows how seriously God takes our faithfulness to Him!