



## Sermon Notes

**Term** – Autumn 2018

**Series** –

**Gathering & Date** – 5pm 23<sup>rd</sup> Sep

**Title** – Redefining Success

**Preacher** – Andrew Stansbury

**Reading** – Deuteronomy 6 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

**6** Now this is the instruction, the laws, and the precepts which the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land to which you go to possess it,

<sup>2</sup> That you may [reverently] fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son, and keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

<sup>3</sup> Hear therefore, O Israel, and be watchful to do them, that it may be well with you and that you may increase exceedingly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord [the only Lord].

<sup>5</sup> And you shall love the Lord your God with all your [mind and] heart and with your entire being and with all your might.

<sup>6</sup> And these words which I am commanding you this day shall be [first] in your [own] minds *and* hearts; [then]

<sup>7</sup> You shall whet *and* sharpen them so as to make them penetrate, *and* teach *and* impress them diligently upon the [minds and] hearts of your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up.

<sup>8</sup> And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets (forehead bands) between your eyes.

<sup>9</sup> And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

<sup>10</sup> And when the Lord your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you, with great and goodly cities which you did not build,

<sup>11</sup> And houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and cisterns hewn out which you did not hew, and vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and when you eat and are full,

<sup>12</sup> Then beware lest you forget the Lord, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

<sup>13</sup> You shall [reverently] fear the Lord your God and serve Him and swear by His name [and presence].

**Main message of this talk in one sentence** – True success is not found in *what* we achieve, but in *how* we achieve

**Main points** – Life can look all the same – the same circle, birth, school, job, career, retirement and death. If we all go through the same cycle (roughly) then what actually is important? Why do we exist?

- Success isn't about what we do/achieve with our lives, it is found in how we live and how we achieve. God will look at how we lived over what we achieve with our lives.
- If we focus on what we achieve, we will be focussing on tomorrow – where am I going, what's next? How do I progress? How to I keep all these things I have safe? But if success is in *how* we achieve, then today because really important – we think about the right way of living today, entrusting tomorrows journey to God
- *How* to achieve well as a follower of Jesus largely hinges on our ability to guard, grow and stoke our pure passion for the person of Jesus. Not passion about what He could do through or around us, but a pure passion for the wonder of who He is.
- As life gets busier and busier, we can replace passion with duty. Duty is healthy when it is chosen because of a passion (I'm genuinely passionate about being present at church which means that

on the days I don't feel passionate about going, I still go because I know underlying my up and down emotions is a passion for it. Duty isn't healthy when it never came from, and never re-connects us to our passion.

- Passion for the person of Jesus is 99.9% hidden and unseen by others. It is a quiet posture of the heart, a joy for the Spirit revealing more of Himself through scripture and through life.
- Frame your friendships around asking each other about your passion for the person of Jesus. Pray for it for one another and fight for it in your life – it is the most important thing.

**For further thought and prayer –**

Reflect on the reading from Deuteronomy 6 – what stands out and why?

What do you think of the re-definition of success?

How do you guard and grow your passion?

Is there any unhealthy duty in your life? How will you address this?

How is God getting your attention through this talk?