

Text: Deuteronomy 28:1-10

Title: Eyes on the Prize

Preacher: Mrs Priscilla Solomon

Series: Hear and Remember

[For Group Leaders: The following serves only as a guide. Please feel free to adapt according to the needs of your group.]

**1. SERMON RECAP** (Visit [pmc.org.sg](http://pmc.org.sg) to listen to the sermon and download a copy of the Power point slides)

- a. Deut 11-26 covers a large segment of various relevant laws that Yahveh has given to govern His people (not just the Jews but all those who decide to accept Him as King).
- b. We came to Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal and heard some curses from the previous chapter that can be summarized in Deut 27:26. Now we hear the 8-fold blessing of Deut 28. If we are not careful in the proper exegesis of these blessings, we like many others will fall into the false teaching of the prosperity gospel or we may think these blessings connected to the laws preceding them were relevant to the Jews and those of the Old Testament rather than to include us. To understand them in context we turned to the best expositor of Scripture and the Laws – Christ our King. In Matthew 5-7 He taught the people how to live out the Ten Commandments and He began in Matthew 5:1-19 with the very same 8-fold blessing of Deut 28! The people who were familiar with the OT understood the connection and were amazed to learn from Him.
- c. We saw how we must Shamar (Guard) the Way and Shama (see and internalize, listen and obey) the Truth so that Yahveh may raise up our Life as an example for others. Only then can we run well with our eyes fixed on Christ from Whom we are learning to run straight through obeying His Words with the grace now given to us.
- d. Finally, blessings are not within our realm of control or manipulation. They belong to God and He determines when they will enter our lives and even overtake us.

**2. LIVE IT OUT**

(Take a look at the chart that connects Matthew 5 with Deuteronomy 28 on the next page)

- a. Consider the 8 pre-requisites for the blessings (from the first column of Matthew 5:1-19) and discuss the ones you struggle with and why you think the struggle exists.  
(E.g.: I struggle being poor in spirit because I was taught that one should not be dependent on others and I have carried that over into my relationship with God...).

- b. Discuss practical ways in 'keeping your eyes on Jesus' in everyday situations.
- c. Share times when you or someone you respect has Shamar and Shama-ed God's Instructions when faced with temptation to compromise with the world's standards. What was the result of yours/their obedience and its effect on others?

MATTHEW 5:1-19 (Who is Blessed?)	MATTHEW 5:1-19 (What is the Blessing?)	DEUTERONOMY 28:1-10
1. Blessed are the poor in spirit (beggar – total dependency)	Because of them is the Kingdom of Heaven	Vs 3. Where – In the city and the field (everywhere)
2. Blessed are those who mourn (grieve over sin as death, act)	Be comforted	Vs 4. How – There will be life (human, plant, animal)
3. Blessed are the meek (Ps 37:11 – humbled by suffering)	Inherit the earth	Vs 5. How – they will rise victorious in life as dough in a kneading bowl
4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (desperately toil for survival)	Be satisfied	Vs 6. How – in coming in (to a feast) and going out (with hands full laden)
5. Blessed are the merciful (answer the cry of the needy)	Receive mercy (when they cry out)	Vs 7. When –Yahveh dissipates the united force of their enemies
6. Blessed are the pure in heart (heart is fully devoted to God)	See God	Vs 8. Where – their store which is full and also their undertakings
7. Blessed are the peacemakers (shalom – bring wholeness)	Called sons (children) of God	Vs 9. Why – Yahveh will clean, set them apart as holy and whole
8. Blessed are those persecuted for righteousness' sake	Kingdom of God (Yahveh's reign)	Vs 10. People will consider their life and fear / revere / honour them

### 3. REFLECT AND PRAY

- a. Lift up each other's struggles which you shared in the 'Live It Out' Segment.
- b. Pray also that you will be able to Shamar and Shama God's instructions in your life.

### 4. GOING DEEPER

Reflect on these words from Matt 5:1-19 and Deut 28:1-10 and begin to internalize them:

'Blessed am I when I Shamar and Shama God's instructions = \*'

\* And acknowledge my spiritual poverty. Because of my total dependence on God, His reign is seen everywhere regardless of the powers that be.

\* And am grieved over the sin and death I see around me and within me. Because I will be moved to repent and take action and there will be life, even the redemption of all creation.

\* Even when I am kneaded and punched as dough in the kneading bowl of life. Because I will rise victorious and fill the earth with those like me, just as surely as dough rises and fills the kneading bowl.

\* And hunger and thirst after it for my very survival. Because I will be totally satisfied as one who comes into a banqueting hall and has their fill and goes forth laden.

\* And respond in mercy to the cry of those around me. Because when I cry out on account of my enemies, God will answer my cry and extend mercy to me, He will remove my enemies from my life.

\* And have filled my life with His ways, when my heart is fully His. Because I have made what is His – mine, He will make what is mine – His and I will see Him attend to my needs and undertakings.

\* And am stirred to make shalom with Him and others, ushering in wholeness into my relationships. I will be called His child because only those whom He sets apart as holy and shalom can bring shalom to others.

\* Even when I am reviled and persecuted on account of it. Because of the example of my life, God's reign will be seen by all the people of the earth and they will fear and honour Him Who lives in me.