

My Phylacteries

(Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

- Introduction:
1. Do you know what the “Shema” is? Or how about “phylacteries” or “mezuzahs?”
 2. These words may be foreign to you, but the concepts should not.
 3. In this lesson, I’d like to define these terms and challenge you to develop a level of spiritual focus in your life that these words were intended to represent.

I. Definition of Terms

- A. Shema.
1. This is the Hebrew word of “hear.”
 2. It became word used to identify a commonly repeated prayer among the Jews (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).
 3. The “Shema” is the centerpiece for Jewish morning and evening prayers.
- B. Phylactery.
1. A phylactery is a small box worn on the arm and forehead of Jewish men.
 2. They contained a portion of the Old Testament Torah, (e.g. Deut. 6:8).
- C. Mezuzah.
1. A Mezuzah is a small box affixed to the doorpost of a Jewish person’s home.
 2. The box is placed at eye level so the one entering and exiting will be reminded of its contents, which again is a copy of Scripture.
 3. (Deuteronomy 6:9).

II. The Application of Terms

- A. Of course, we are no longer under the Old Testament as law today (Romans 7:6), but it still serves to teach us (Romans 15:4).
- B. The question I would like for you to consider is: “What are your phylacteries?”
1. In other words, “What are your daily reminders of who and whose you are?”
 2. Do you have any?
- C. My phylacteries are a toy car and a stopwatch.
- D. Can I challenge you to seek out things or habits that remind you who and whose you are?

- Conclusion:
1. We know all too well from Israel’s history that it is possible to forget and lose our way.
 2. We also know all too well from our own experiences of spiritual ebbs and flows that we are prone to lose our focus as well.
 3. Friends, too much is at stake. Do whatever it takes to remember!