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Devotion for October 14th, 2021

Deuteronomy 12:13-32

Today's reading is from Deuteronomy 12:13-32. I don't know about you but sometimes when I read from the Old Testament, particularly about laws, I can get very confused. Given that the world around us looks so vastly different, it can be hard to comprehend what the people went through.

In this passage, though, I was struck by the care that God shows to His people through His instructions. It can be odd to associate love with boundaries, rules, restrictions, and regulations. But the reality is, sometimes setting those limits can be the most loving thing.

We tell small children not to touch hot stoves, we put signs along roadways with steep cliffs. Hopefully in our relationships at work and at home we're able to clearly communicate expectations and set limits about when we meet our capacities. When we set these boundaries, we are loving those around us as we care for them and ourselves.

So too, our Lord has set boundaries for us with the ways in which we need to act. Granted, there are some things in the Old Testament that no longer apply to us because of the fulfillment we receive in Jesus, but that's a topic for another day. We love God when we respect what He's told us, and He in turn loves us by giving us rules to protect us. And above all, He gave us His Son to die on the cross and rise again from the dead so that we might receive forgiveness each and every time we fail to follow what God asks of us.

*God's blessings,
Marissa Kroenke, Deaconess Intern
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