

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Drawn from “The Command to Enjoy,” A Sermon on Deut 20:1-9 (Part 2)

Pastor Nicoletti @ Faith PCA Tacoma

September 14, 2025 AM

1. This week’s sermon text is about **literal** warfare. Are you, or any of your loved ones, **veterans** of war? If so, what did this passage bring to mind that you would be willing to share with the group?
2. Look again at verses 5-7 and think about the three **specific** exemptions from battle which Moses makes here in these verses. Of all the good gifts which the Lord grants us in this life, why are **these three** singled out as exemptions from war?
3. Look again at the three exemptions outlined in verses 5-7 and compare with Deut 24:5 and Lev 19:23-24. Assuming that Israel was at war indefinitely, approximately how long would these exemptions apply? Talk about the significance of these lengths of time.
4. Why does God make enjoyment of His gifts both a duty and a priority? Why is this important to him and for us?
5. According to other places in Scripture (e.g. Deut 8:11ff) the good things of this life can tempt us to forget and turn away from God. How do we rightly enjoy God’s good gifts so that they do not lead us into spiritual forgetfulness, apathy, and worldliness?

6. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti quoted Robert Capon, “Food is the daily sacrament of unnecessary goodness, ordained for a continual remembrance that the world will always be more delicious than it is useful.” As a group, consider and evaluate this sentiment from a Biblical perspective.

7. As Pastor Nicoletti implied in his sermon, the Christian life must balance the call to fight and work hard with the call to enjoy God’s good gifts and rest in His sovereign goodness. What does this balance look like? How can we know if we are getting it right?

8. In the sermon, Pastor Nicoletti said, “Escapism and self-medication are not the same thing as true enjoyment.” Do you agree? Why or not?

9. Who is someone you personally know and admire for his/her ability to enjoy the good gifts of God even in the midst of battles, fears, and anxieties?

10. What battles, fears, and anxieties are hindering your enjoyment of God’s good gifts? How can this group encourage, help, and pray for you? (*suggested Psalms to inspire and guide your prayers: Psalm 103 and Psalm 20*)