

Dueteronomy ch 22-

You recall we wound up reviewing what it was that was required of the nation of Israel in the case of unsolved murder. And how they were to measure to the nearest city and that was the city that was to be held accountable for that crime regardless of whether or not the murder lived there. And the elders were to bring down a heifer that had never been worked into a valley that had never been sown and they were to break the heifers neck, because the crime that had been committed was a crime that warranted capital punishment. And so the heifer was basically the substitutionary death in the place of the unknown murderer. And the elders were to wash their hands over the heifer and they were all to swear that they knew nothing of the incident and that they were innocent of the shed blood and in doing so they were interceding for their nation and providing atonement for the sin. Now when they went to war and it wasn't against a nation that God had ordered the total annihilation of and they saw a woman that they thought was beautiful they could take that woman as a wife. But then if after the allotted time of mourning was up and they found out that she wasn't what they thought they had discovered for a great wife or whatever, they could set her free. They couldn't sell her as a slave, because they had taken her for a wife, but they could turn her loose or set her free. Also if you had a rebellious child, and they refused to be obedient and were in constant rebellion and in emphatic violation of the 5th commandment to honor their mother and father. The you could take them to the town elders, tell them what was going on and they would stone the child to death, again we aren't talking about 2 or 3 year olds, but those who were in adamant and consistent purposed rebellion to their parents. And then finally we seen briefly how vs 2 applied to our Lord Jesus Christ where it is written, "*for he who is hanged on a tree is accursed of God.*" And we aren't going to get into that right now because it comes up again in Gal ch 3 which we'll be looking at Sunday, during our Easter service. That brings us up to ch 22 where we'll continue to look at these miscellaneous laws and we'll try and cover quite a bit of ground because we're beginning to creep up towards the end of Duet.

Ch 22 begins with a practical application for them of really what it meant to love their neighbor as their self. They were to be good neighbors to one another and not ignore the needs of each other just because it was inconvenient for them or didn't fit into their personal schedule.

Vs1-3

In other words you're not to just let the animal stray and act like you didn't see it just because of the inconvenience of the extra time and labor that was going to be involved in returning the animal or taking it in if you didn't know whose it was. Basically God is telling them to do right by each other and take care of each other, not just blow off someone else's hardship because "hey, it's not my problem." Jesus would put it like this, do unto others, as you would have others do unto you.

If your dog was out of the fence and you couldn't find it and you had looked and looked and looked and were all but ready to give up and your neighbor saw it, wouldn't you hope that he'd take the dog and bring it to you. Or at the very least take it back to his house and then call you and say hey I've got your dog, you can come and get it whenever you like.

Sure you would, but what if he saw the dog and was like, "bummer, that's not my problem and I don't have time to get involved I'm busy enough as it is." And he could've put an end to your woes by simply picking up the dog, but now your search goes on, and then later he says yeah I saw your dog, but I didn't have the time to help you out, sorry. That's not right is it, that's what God is saying here, if you have the means to help out your brother, do it, don't blow it off and God will honor that.

Vs4

Same type thing, you see a brother or a sister from the body here broke down on the side of the road somewhere or with a flat tire, it doesn't matter how busy you are or how behind in your schedule you are, stop and help them out. Well what if I'm late for work, you should've started off earlier, then you wouldn't be in that position. But I don't know how to replace a tire or work on cars. You can take them to a phone or make sure that they don't get left there stranded. If you have the means to meet their need, which in this case would be at least a car to get them to a phone and you neglect their need, then you're blowing life and displaying self-centeredness (placing your wants and concerns above another brothers or sisters) and not displaying the love of God. As far as a NT cross reference 1 John 3:17 *"But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"*

Vs5

Now this isn't in reference to a woman not being able to wear blue jeans or things of that nature and surely the culture, which in we live is strange indeed. But this is in regards to transvestites and things of that nature, homosexuality and lesbianism. A woman trying to look like a man because she isn't satisfied being a woman. A man trying to look like a woman because he isn't satisfied being a man and doing these things, trying to attract and lure the same sex to themselves, God says that's an abomination. Many of you may know who Rupaul is, if you're lucky you don't but he's sort of a well known transvestite and has done everything he can to become a woman and last year I heard that he put out a Christmas c.d. Singing songs like Silent night and the 1st Noel, that churned my stomach, that's total blasphemy living in total rebellion to the word of God and singing Christ the Savior is born. The bible says that, *"The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD."* It just floored me to think of the audacity that that took, to sing of God's goodness and mercies in total drag and living such a debased lifestyle. Men are to be men and women are to be women, that's what the bible teaches and those who seek to be otherwise are an abomination to the Lord.

Vs6-7

Not exactly sure what that's all about but they were to obey the word of God and this is part of it, and some things we might not understand, but we obey God's word regardless of whether or not we understand each detail of it or not. God knows what He's talking about and so we are to obey Him even if we're unsure what the point of a particular vs may be, it was probably explained to them and significant, but as for me I'm unsure of the direct meaning and point of it.

Vs8

Again these are just common sense instructions that God is instructing them to abide by. In their culture they would use their roofs sort of like a porch, they were flat. And God says hey build some type of retaining wall or railing around your roof so that your buddy doesn't fall off and you bring innocent blood upon yourself that could've been prevented.

Vs9-11

For whatever reason it seems as though God doesn't like mixtures, women be women, men be men, when you plant a vineyard what ever you devote to that field sow it all the same, and the other field sow it the same as well. Wear wool or linen, not the two together, and when you plow either use 2 donkey's or 2 oxen, if you try and yoke together 2 birds of a different feather it isn't going to work out. They don't pull the same they don't work well together, don't (listen) *don't unequally yoke them up*. And when it comes to mankind God has the same attitude, not as far as race to race is considered because there's only the human race, not several different ones. But in regards to believer non-believer, your hearts won't be the same, you won't have the same drive or passions, you won't be in stride with one-another and you'll pull at odds with one-another. God says don't do it, what fellowship has light with darkness or a believer with a non-believer, God doesn't dig mixtures and so when you're praying for that perfect person to be brought into your life. So that you might spend the rest of your day's with them and then this wonderfully sweet person comes into your life, but there's only one small problem, their not a believer but you're sure you can change them. Don't buy that lie, I've seen a lot of lives ruined over that deception, they are a decoy sent from hell, you want God's best so wait until he brings that person into your life that has just as strong if not a stronger drive and passion for Him to lead a life of holiness and consecration to the Lord.

Vs12

In Num ch 15 we learned that they were to do this in order to remind them of the law and commands of God, so that they might obey them and not fall into the harlotry of the other nations nor follow the natural inclinations of their own hearts. But rather that they would be set apart as a royal priest-hood as unto Him.

Now in vs13-20 we find that if a man was to take a wife and then something got heated between them and so he sought to shame her and get rid of her by saying that she wasn't a virgin when he married her. Then the Father was to bring out the proof of her virginity to the elders at the city gate, which was where they held court. After the wedding the bride and groom would consummate the wedding and then the father of the bride would get the bed sheet or the cloth up which they had lain. Which if she were a virgin (not to get to graphic) but it would be blood stained, and he was to keep that as proof that she was indeed a virgin when she got married. And if he supplied that proof to the elders then the man who accused her would be punished, which most people believe that entailed being whipped or flogged. And then he was fined 100 shekels of silver and he had to give them to the brides father for shaming her and he couldn't divorce her all the days of his life. However if he couldn't supply the evidence of virginity, then the girl would be taken to the father's house and stone her with stones because as it says in vs 21 she had done a disgraceful thing and played the harlot in her father's house.

Vs22

Adultery was punishable by death.

Vs23-27

So if an engaged woman were in town and she was taken and raped but she didn't cry out, then both the man and the woman would be put to death. Because even if no one could've helped her or gotten to her on time at the very least her screams would vindicate her that she struggled or was against the incident, a victim. Now if the same thing happened out in the country then only the man would be put to death and the woman would be given the benefit of the doubt because no one would've been able to hear her scream.

Vs28-29

So if you raped a young lady who wasn't engaged to anyone then you just got married and you paid the father of the gal 50 shekels of silver and you weren't permitted to divorce her all the days of your life. So it's not likely that you would have the most comfortable or best of relationships with your new wife so God is radically deterring any form of premarital, relationships or rape or anything like that.

Vs30

If your dad dies or gets a divorce you're not to marry his wife, that being your step mom that was considered incest.

Ch. 23

Vs1-2

So you weren't allowed into the camp of the Lord if you were illegitimate, now for them it was a literal law that they were to abide by. For you and me it speaks of the fact that no one is allowed into the family or the camp of God unless they are born again of the Spirit of God. God has no illegitimate sons or daughters, you're either born into the family of God by the work of the Holy Spirit or you're illegitimate and you're not allowed to enter the kingdom, now once you've become a child of God, then you're able to enter in and be apart of God's family. But until then God doesn't recognize you as His, that which is born of the flesh is of the flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is of the Spirit and those who are God's are those who have been born again by the Spirit.

Vs3-6

And you can read of that incident somewhere around Num ch 22-24. But I like what it says there in vs 5, how that God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the Lord your God loves you. This speaks of how God can take what Satan means for evil and turn it to His glory. Rom 8:28 *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."*

Vs7-8

The Edomites were the descendants of Esau the brother of Jacob who became Israel and so because of their kinship through Isaac and ultimately Abraham they weren't to detest the Edomites.

In vs 9-14 we read of the laws of sanitation how they were to conduct themselves as the people of God. God is into personal hygiene and desires that we take care of ourselves being the temple of the Holy Spirit. Now obviously it's not emphasized vehemently but surely God desires for us to stay clean and non-offensive in our presentations of ourselves due to the fact that we haven't showered in 2 weeks or whatever. Now the phrase "cleanliness is next to godliness" isn't in the bible, but we do take note of the fact that God does place a certain degree of emphasis on the fact that He desires us to be clean. Not only physically, but He desires that we have pure and clean minds, clean hearts and purified souls. Notice vs 14

Vs14

Put away those unclean things from among you, those things that hinder your relationship with Him, because the bible teaches us that our sin separates us from God. So we are to put away those unclean things and lead lives set apart to Him. The other night a fellow asked me if those things in the Promised Land that God instructed the children of Israel to utterly destroy represented the flesh life. And I thought about that for a moment and I'm not sure that we could say that for sure all of those things are representative of the flesh, (now we know that the Amalekites are in fact a type of the flesh which we'll take note of another time.) But one thing is for sure they were those people, and their practices were those things that would influence them towards worldliness and worldly practices. So surely we would be on safe ground to say that God would say to us that we are to utterly remove those things in our lives which would seek to sway us or influence us towards pagan or worldliness and turn our hearts from Him. He says here that His people are to be holy or sacred, set apart to Him.

Vs15-23

We've talked about vowing before, you're not required by God to make a vow to Him and if you don't that's fine. However if you do, you're to not delay in fulfilling it or else it becomes sin for you, is there forgiveness? Sure it's not the unpardonable sin, but God takes a person at their word, even as He expects you to take Him at His word and trust His word. You may break your word to Him, but He'll never break His word to you. If you make a vow to God just know that He takes it seriously and so consider your words carefully before you utter them.

Vs24-25

The disciples of Jesus took advantage of this provision in the law, if you were passing through a vineyard you could eat as many grapes as your stomach could stand, but you couldn't put any in your shirt or in a container and carry them out. If you were going through a wheat field you could eat of the heads of grain, but you couldn't take your sickle in there and have a mini-harvest for yourself. But it wasn't illegal to eat the wheat of a field or the grapes of a vineyard as long as you stopped at that and didn't carry any out other than what you had in your stomach. Next week we'll continue to look at these various laws that God had established for His people as they came into the Promised Land.