

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



Deuteronomy Part 25 (chapter 23) KJV

7.19.2023

Chapter 23

Disqualified Worshippers. Escaped Slave. Public hygiene. Our Vows. Free food.

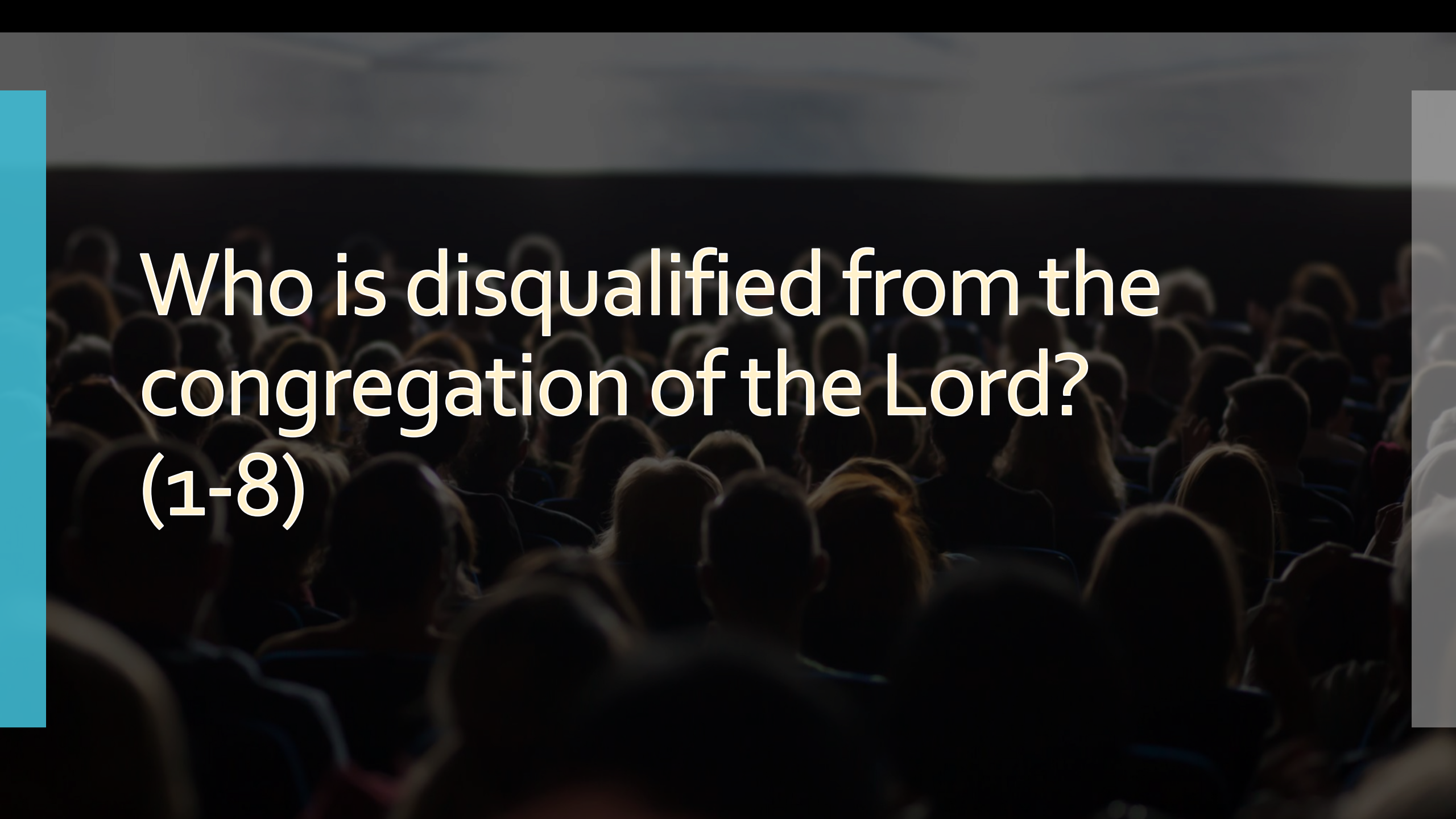
Who is excluded from the congregation of the Lord? (1-8)

Why is personal hygiene emphasized? (9-14)

How must a fleeing slave be treated? (15-16)

Can tainted money be given as offering? Can money be lent on interest? (17-20)

What is the caution on making vows? How are travelers taken care of by farmers? (21-25)



Who is disqualified from the
congregation of the Lord?
(1-8)

Disqualified from the congregation

²³ He that is wounded in the stones, or hath his privy member cut off, shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord. ² A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the Lord.

³ An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the Lord for ever:

⁴ Because they met you not with bread and with water in the way, when ye came forth out of Egypt; and because they hired against thee Balaam the son of Beor of Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse thee. ⁵ Nevertheless the Lord thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the Lord thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the Lord thy God loved thee. ⁶ Thou shalt not seek their peace nor their prosperity all thy days for ever.

⁷ Thou shalt not abhor an Edomite; for he is thy brother: thou shalt not abhor an Egyptian; because thou wast a stranger in his land. ⁸ The children that are begotten of them shall enter into the congregation of the Lord in their third generation.

Castrated/emasculated man (1)

Illegitimate children (2)

Ammonites and Moabites (3-6)

Edomite and Egyptians (7-8)

**Disqualified from the congregation of the Lord
(1-8)**

Disqualified: Castrated man

He that is wounded in the stones, or hath his privy member cut off, shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord (1)

Disqualified Man

If a man's body is mutilated (castration) and deprived of reproductive function (Eunuchs are castrated men)

- Mutilation could have been accidental, voluntary, forced, or done to please pagan gods, or masters/kings
- Because of mutilation, man cannot bear children

Deuteronomy 14:1

Ye are the children of the Lord your God: ye shall not cut yourselves,

Later Eunuchs shown grace and blessing

Eunuchs find grace

Promise of God's favor on Eunuchs

Isaiah 56:3-5

Neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree. ⁴ For thus saith the Lord unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant; ⁵ Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.

Acts 8:38

Eunuch finds grace and is baptized by Philip

**Blemished
man:
Disqualified
from
Priesthood**

Leviticus 21:17-21

¹⁷ Speak unto Aaron, saying, Whosoever he be of thy seed in their generations that hath any blemish, let him not approach to offer the bread of his God. ¹⁸ For whatsoever man he be that hath a blemish, he shall not approach:

a blind man, or a lame, or he that hath a flat nose, or any thing superfluous, ¹⁹ Or a man that is brokenfooted, or brokenhanded, ²⁰ Or crookbackt, or a dwarf, or that hath a blemish in his eye, or be scurvy, or scabbed, or hath his stones broken;

²¹ No man that hath a blemish of the seed of Aaron the priest shall come nigh to offer the offerings of the Lord made by fire: he hath a blemish; he shall not come nigh to offer the bread of his God.

Illegitimate children disqualified

A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the Lord (2)

Illegitimate children disqualified from congregation

Who is an illegitimate child? Children born from unapproved union of man & woman (incest, unmarried couple, children of prostitutes)

- Long list of forbidden relationships (Leviticus 18:6-20, 20:10-21)
- Warning: We should not engage in a forbidden relationships ... there are consequences (God will judge)

Prohibited relationships (Leviticus 18 & 20)

Intimate relationships with:

- Immediate family members (parents, siblings)
- in-laws (daughter/son/sister/brother/father/mother)
- Relatives (aunts, uncles)
- Grand children
- Neighbor (adultery)
- Beast

Ammonites and Moabites prohibited

Ammonites and Moabites born out of incest (Lot and his daughters, Genesis 19:30-38)

Ammonites – did not extend hospitality to Israelites

Moabites – hired Balaam to curse Israelites (Numbers 22:5-6)
(But God converted the curse into blessing)

Ammonites and Moabites Barred until tenth generation

Exceptions and God's grace

Ruth was a Moabite

Edomites and Egyptians prohibited

Prohibited until third generation

Edomites – relatives, lineage of Esau (Jacob's brother)

Egypt – a mixed blessing to Israelites

provided food to Israelites during famine,
Israelites multiplied in Egypt during 400 years,
but were also oppressed in Egypt

God did not want Israelites to forget that their initial survival was due to the hospitality of Egyptians.

Personal hygiene and Public health (9-14)

Personal hygiene (9-14)

⁹ When the host goeth forth against thine enemies, then keep thee from every wicked thing. ¹⁰ If there be among you any man, that is not clean by reason of uncleanness that chanceth him by night, then shall he go abroad out of the camp, he shall not come within the camp: ¹¹ But it shall be, when evening cometh on, he shall wash himself with water: and when the sun is down, he shall come into the camp again.

¹² Thou shalt have a place also without the camp, whither thou shalt go forth abroad: ¹³ And thou shalt have a paddle upon thy weapon; and it shall be, when thou wilt ease thyself abroad, thou shalt dig therewith, and shalt turn back and cover that which cometh from thee:

¹⁴ For the Lord thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy: that he see no unclean thing in thee, and turn away from thee.

Hygiene at campsite (9-14)

¹⁴ For the Lord thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy: that he see no unclean thing in thee, and turn away from thee.

God cares about personal cleanliness and holiness

Uncleanliness caused by low hygiene standards (not due to moral reasons or sins)

Guidelines

Sanitary cleanliness - don't be lazy or accidentally urinate inside camp

Go out to release, and dig and cover the refuse (13)

Reasons for cleanliness:

- Lack of hygiene is a serious public health hazard and can lead to many diseases
- **God is present in the camp and walks about** (14)
 - Holy spirit lives within us and we must pursue holiness

Runaway slave from foreign land (15-16)

Should he be arrested, Sent back to master, Given
refugee/asylum status?

Runaway slave (15-16)

¹⁵ Thou shalt not deliver unto his master the servant which is escaped from his master unto thee:

¹⁶ He shall dwell with thee, even among you, in that place which he shall choose in one of thy gates, where it liketh him best: thou shalt not oppress him.

Runaway slave (from foreign land) (15-16)

Why is the slave fleeing?

maybe escaping oppression, seeking freedom, or
better working conditions

What should be the Response?

- Do not send the slave back to his master
- Grant them asylum
- Don't oppress them
- Let the slave pick where he wants to leave

Israelites must show compassion as they also were slaves

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

Prostitution and tainted offerings (17-18)

Prostitution and tainted offerings

¹⁷ There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel.

¹⁸ Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog into the house of the Lord thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the Lord thy God.

Prostitution & Tainted offerings (17-18)

Israelites (male and female) prohibited from prostitution

Dog (18) – refers to male prostitute

Money earned from prostitution (or any other illegitimate/illegal source) cannot be offered to the Lord.

God wants our heart before our money!

If our heart is tainted and motives are impure, so is our offering.

Lending on Interest (19-20)

Lending to Israelites and Strangers (19- 20)

¹⁹ Thou shalt not lend upon usury to thy brother; usury of money, usury of victuals, usury of any thing that is lent upon usury:

²⁰ Unto a stranger thou mayest lend upon usury; but unto thy brother thou shalt not lend upon usury: that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all that thou settest thine hand to in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

Lending on interest (19-20)

Don't charge interest and increase the financial burden of the poor

Don't use your wealth to exploit the poor

Spirit of compassion should guide our actions, especially within our community

Interest permitted from loans to foreigners

Keeping the vow (21-23)

²¹ When thou shalt vow a vow unto the Lord thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the Lord thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee.

²² But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee.

²³ That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform; even a freewill offering, according as thou hast vowed unto the Lord thy God, which thou hast promised with thy mouth.

Keep your VOWS

- Vows are voluntary
- **It is a sin** to make a vow (of actions and/or offerings) and break it

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

⁴ When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. ⁵ Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

PSALMS 66:13-14

¹³ I will go into thy house with burnt offerings: I will pay thee my vows,
¹⁴ Which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble.

God's provision while traveling (24-25)

Free food from neighbor's farm

²⁴ When thou comest into thy neighbour's vineyard, then thou mayest eat grapes thy fill at thine own pleasure; but thou shalt not put any in thy vessel.

²⁵ When thou comest into the standing corn of thy neighbour, then thou mayest pluck the ears with thine hand; but thou shalt not move a sickle unto thy neighbour's standing corn.

Free food Rules (24-25)

Okay to glean and eat (grapes and wheat kernels) for immediate needs

Not okay to carry out in baskets or use a sickle

Farmers ... don't be greedy but be compassionate to the poor and weary

Mathew 12:1-2

At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn and to eat. ² But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



Deuteronomy Part 25 (chapter 23) KJV

7.19.2023

Chapter 23

Disqualified Worshippers. Escaped Slave. Public hygiene. Our Vows. Free food.

Who is excluded from the congregation of the Lord? (1-8)

Why is personal hygiene emphasized? (9-14)

How must a fleeing slave be treated? (15-16)

Can tainted money be given as offering? Can money be lent on interest? (17-20)

What is the caution on making vows? How are travelers taken care of by farmers? (21-25)