

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



Deuteronomy Part 27 (chapter 25) KJV

8.02.2023

Chapter 25

Justice. Welfare of widows. Just weights. Amalekites war.

How can a justice system be just? What are the limits on corporal punishment? How are the animals to be treated? (1-4)

What is the obligation of surviving brother toward his widowed brother's wife? Why? (5-10) What is the consequence when a wife interferes in the fight between two males? (11-12)

What are the regulations concerning weights & measures? (13-16)

Why must Israel go to war against Amalekites? What must be the outcome of war? How must we treat our enemies? (17-20)

Justice served justly (1-3)

What are the guidelines for justice?

Justice served (1-3)

If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, that the judges may judge them; then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked.

² And it shall be, if the wicked man be worthy to be beaten, that the judge shall cause him to lie down, and to be beaten before his face, according to his fault, by a certain number.

³ Forty stripes he may give him, and not exceed: lest, if he should exceed, and beat him above these with many stripes, then thy brother should seem vile unto thee.

Justice

If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, that the judges may judge them; then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked (1)

Goal: To justify the righteous & to condemn the wicked (1)

Process: Bring to trial (1)

Guidelines for Justice

- Judgement should be based on truth, be fair, be unbiased, and timely
- Guilty should be treated with respect
- Punishment must be based on the intensity of crime
- Total stripes cannot exceed 40
- Must be executed in front of the judge to avoid abuse

Discipline through corporal punishment

Paul

Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one (II Corinthians 11:24)

Parents disciplining Children (sometimes abused)

Proverbs 13:24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

What is the Intent of rod/chastening of children?

To instill discipline & character (motivated by love for children)

Punishment of kids must not become an outlet for parent's uncontrolled anger or frustration; that will be parental abuse.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Compassion to animals (4)

Thou shalt not muzzle the ox
when he treadeth out the
corn.

Ox is employed to separate the wheat from the chaff and must be treated well.

Ox must not be muzzled as it works (muzzle will prevent the ox from reaching the harvest and eating).

Paul applies this principle to Christian workers ...

ITimothy 5:18 For the scripture saith, thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, the laborer is worthy of his reward

(also in I Corinthians 9:7-10)

**Marriage obligation of
brother-in-law to
widowed sister-in-law
(5-10)**

Marriage obligation of brother-in-law to widowed sister-in-law (5-10)

⁵ If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her.

⁶ And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel.

⁷ And if the man like not to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate unto the elders, and say, My husband's brother refuseth to raise up unto his brother a name in Israel, he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.

⁸ Then the elders of his city shall call him, and speak unto him: and if he stand to it, and say, I like not to take her;

⁹ Then shall his brother's wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, So shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his brother's house.

¹⁰ And his name shall be called in Israel, The house of him that hath his shoe loosed.

Marriage obligation of brother-in-law to widowed sister-in-law

Goals:

- To provide for the widow
- To protect property rights
- To continue the family tree

Process:

- Widowed wife marries her brother-in-law
- Children bear the name of dead husband and inherit the property

Cannot marry sister-in-law when brother is alive
(Leviticus 20:21)

Unwilling brother-in-law

What if brother-in-law refuses to marry?

Complaint brought to the elders

If he refuses to listen, man put to public shame

widow spits on his face and removes his shoe

Shoes symbolic of property (as used to walk over the property) ... loosening of shoe implies giving up of heritage.

1TIMOTHY 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

Boaz's role in redemption (Ruth 4)

⁴ I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line.” **“I will redeem it,”** he said. ⁵ Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man’s widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property.” ⁶ At this, the guardian-redeemer said, **“Then I cannot redeem it** because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.”

Kinsman only interested in property (not marriage to Ruth)! ⁸ So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it yourself.” And he **removed his sandal.**

Boaz's role in redemption (Ruth 4)

Boaz marries Ruth.

8 So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it yourself.” And he removed his sandal.

⁹ Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, “Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. ¹⁰ I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon’s widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!” ¹³ So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.

**Wife's
interference in
conflict
among males
(11-12)**

¹¹ When men strive together one with another, and the wife of the one draweth near for to deliver her husband out of the hand of him that smiteth him, and putteth forth her hand, and taketh him by the secrets.

¹² Then thou shalt cut off her hand, thine eye shall not pity her.

Wife's interference in male conflict

Wife should not interfere in conflict between two males.

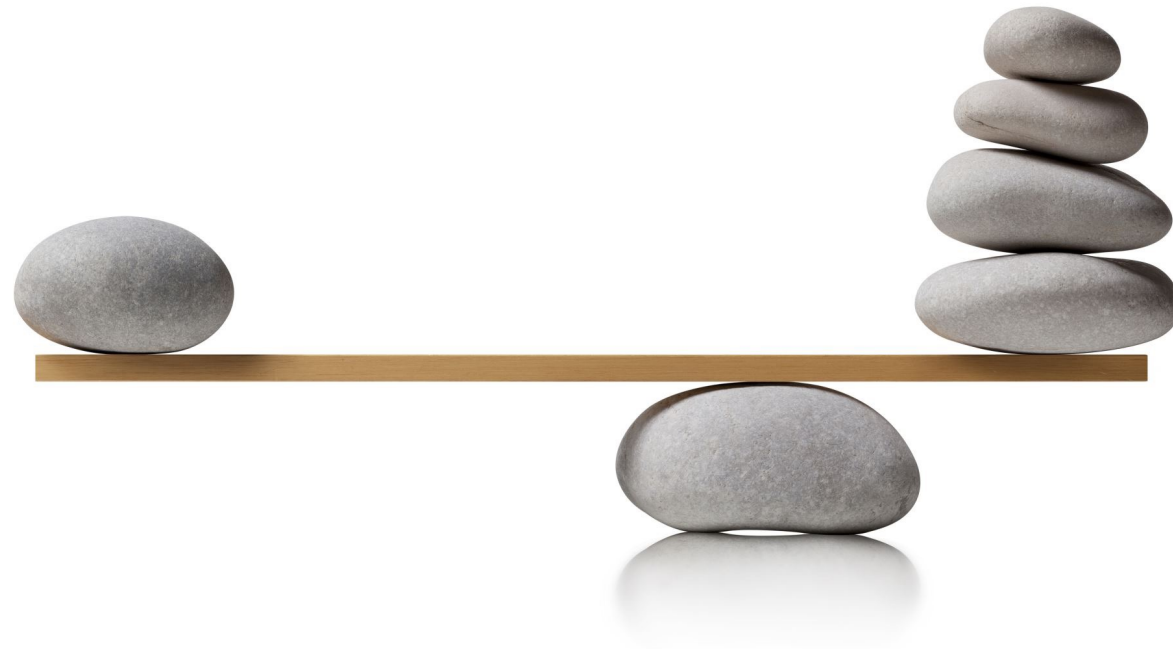
If extreme bodily harm done by wife (here resulting in castration of man), wife also faces extreme punishment (her hand cut off)

Severe punishment to wife serves as a deterrent (no recorded incident in the bible)

While wife may have good intentions (of protecting her husband), the process must also be valid. The end does not justify the means.

Accuracy in scale while doing business (13-16)

¹³ Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small. ¹⁴ Thou shalt not have in thine house divers measures, a great and a small. ¹⁵ But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. ¹⁶ For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the Lord thy God.



Use accurate scales while doing business (13-16)

Accuracy in weights and measures

Weights and measures must be accurate
(while trading)

No cheating allowed for private gains
(cheating = stealing)

Trust is important while doing business
transactions of buying & selling

False weights are an abomination to the Lord!

False weights and measures

Proverbs 11:1

A false balance is abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight

Similarly, hypocrisy is unacceptable to the Lord

War against Amalekites

(from Esau's lineage)

War against Amalekites

¹⁷ Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt;

¹⁸ How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.

¹⁹ Therefore it shall be, when the Lord thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it.

War against Amalekites

Amalekites are descendants of Esau

Amalekites attacked the stragglers (presumably, aged, sick, women and children)

God does not approve of cruelty towards his children

Punishment: To be destroyed (completely) because of their cruelty

Exodus 17

Joshua's victory over Amalekites (but not wiped out)

⁸ Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.

¹³ And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

¹⁴ And the Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

¹⁵ And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi:

¹⁶ For he said, Because the Lord hath sworn that the **Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation**

Saul's partial obedience to wipe out Amalekites

I SAMUEL 15:2-9

² Thus saith the Lord of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.

³ Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass. ⁴ And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah.

⁵ And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley. ⁶ And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

⁷ And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt. ⁸ And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. ⁹ **But Saul and the people spared** Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

Saul loses throne due to partial obedience

Saul lost his throne for failure to obey fully – I SAMUEL 28:17-18

¹⁷ And the Lord hath done to him, as he spake by me: for the Lord hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbor, even to David:

¹⁸ Because thou obeyed not the voice of the Lord, nor executed his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the Lord done this thing unto thee this day.

Israelites failed to eliminate the Amalekites for a long time

Final defeat of Amalekites came during Hezekiah time

I Chronicles 4:43 - And they smote the rest of the Amalekites that were escaped, and dwelt there unto this day.

Continuing battle with Amalekites: application

Continuing battle with Amalekites (and inability to secure complete victory) compared to persistence of believer's battle with sin.

Paul speaks of his struggle in Romans 7

²² For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? ²⁵ **I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.** So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Victory and overcoming life is possible only through the power of the cross.

New Testament teaching on enemies

Mathew 5:43-44 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt **love** thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, **Love your enemies**, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Romans 12:19-21 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. ²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

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