



Calvary of Albuquerque

Exodus 22:1-23:14 - Exodus 22:1-23:14

From the Series, Exodus

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

While God's Law can never make us righteous, it does reveal God's standard, providing a gauge of just how bad we are and pointing us to the Savior. Let's take a look at more particulars of the Law in this study of Exodus 22-23. We'll consider both God's great care for us and the choice He provides: to obey or to disobey.

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

A. God gave the Ten Commandments

1. Best if His people had kept them
2. They desired to obey, but incapable of doing so
3. "Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments," (Deuteronomy 5:29).
4. The failure is not with the Law

B. Functions of the Law

1. Reveals Sin: "Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:20).
2. Points us to Christ
3. People need to understand the bad news in order to understand the good news
 - a. The bad news
 - i. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Romans 3:23)
 - ii. "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me" (Psalm 51:5).
 - iii. Human problem of the heart that affects every person from birth
 - iv. We are sinners by nature and by choice
 - b. The good news: Jesus came to save us from sin
4. The Law sets the standard
 - a. Modifies behavior
 - b. Does not modify the heart

II. Exodus 22

A. Expansion of the 8th Commandment: You shall not steal

1. Code of Hammurabi
 - a. 1700 BC (pre-dated Moses; 1300 BC)
 - b. Babylonian ruler
 - c. Similar in some ways to the law of Moses
 - d. A thief who could not repay what was stolen should be put to death
 - e. The Law of Moses: more merciful
 - i. Old Testament reveals a God of Love
 - ii. God protects the innocent
 - iii. God impugns the guilty
2. Law of compensation
 - a. Zacchaeus: "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold" (Luke 19:8).
 - b. Our law: restore what was stolen
 - c. The Law: restoration and compensation
 - i. Caused more respect
 - ii. Restore four-fivefold, depending on the situation
3. Right of self protection
 - a. If thief caught "digging in" killed, not considered murder
 - b. If thief killed at night
 - i. No visibility
 - ii. Harder to get help
 - iii. Not murder
 - c. If killed in the day
 - i. Complete visibility
 - ii. Considered revenge
4. Restoration
 - a. Differentiation



- i. If the thief killed the animal he restored 4-5 times the value
 - ii. If the thief still had the live animal he paid double
 - b. Boundaries
 - i. Animals didn't know boundaries
 - ii. Owner was responsible to watch animals so they didn't steal by grazing another's property
 - c. Term "restore" or "restitution" used 6 times in this chapter
 - i. שָׁלַם; shalam- to make good
 - ii. Related to - שָׁלוֹם; shalom - to make peace
 - iii. It takes more than confession to make peace
 - iv. Compensation sews the torn fabric of relationship back together

B. Miscellaneous Laws

1. Sexual Promiscuity

- a. Pre-marital sex; fornication
- b. The solution if they have sex: marriage
 - i. Pay the dowry and marry
 - ii. If the father refuses, he pays the virgin's bride price
 - iii. You play, you pay!
- c. Sex accompanies commitment
- d. Instruction regarding pre-marital sex (See Deuteronomy 22)
- e. New Testament, premarital sex under the blanket term porneiōa; porneia - fornication

2. Sorcery

- a. Sorceress: not as many males as females practiced sorcery
- b. In Medieval times, witches were hunted and killed based on this verse
- c. Ancient civilizations distinguished between black and white magic
 - i. Black magic: incantations to harm
 - ii. White magic: good fortune
- d. All magic is forbidden by God
 - i. Nefarious form of idolatry
 - ii. Greek translation used the word "poisoner"

3. Bestiality (sexual intercourse with an animal)

- a. Canaanites and Mesopotamians practiced it
 - i. Part of their gods' activities
 - ii. Part of their worship
- b. A person becomes like the god worshipped "Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them" (Psalm 115:8).

4. Idolatry

- a. Became the greatest temptation for Israel
 - i. The reason they were taken into captivity
 - ii. The reason the Northern Kingdoms were destroyed by the Assyrians
- b. Peer pressure

5. Oppression

- a. Resident aliens: not Jewish
 - i. Protected, same rights as the Jews
 - ii. In Israel today, Palestinians still given the same treatment
- b. Widows and orphans
 - i. Not to be mistreated
 - ii. No way to defend themselves
 - iii. God defends them
- c. Poor
 - i. Not to be taken advantage of
 - ii. Loans were to be given to prevent them from becoming destitute; no interest
 - iii. Origin of Gemach- interest free loans for Jewish immigrants
 - iv. Not to take items necessary for basic survival as a pledge (See Deuteronomy 24:6)

C. God established human government

- 1. Paul struck Ananias and quoted v. 28 (See Acts 23:1-5)
- 2. Romans 13

D. First fruits to be given to God

- 1. Crops
- 2. Animals
- 3. People
- 4. Money

E. Don't eat meat torn by beasts

- 1. Ceremonial reasons (see Leviticus 22:8)
- 2. Hygienic reasons

III. Exodus 23

A. Do not circulate a false report

- 1. "Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;" (James 1:19).
- 2. God gave you two ears and one mouth: exercise them in proportion
- 3. Talebearer: "The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body" (Proverbs 18:8).
- 4. Before listening to an evil report
 - a. What is your motivation?

- b. Where did you get the information?
- c. Have you gone to those directly involved?
- d. Have you personally checked out the facts?
- e. Can I quote you?
- B. Mob mentality; peer pressure
 - 1. Gangs, riots
 - 2. If obeyed, no crucifixion
 - 3. You are called to be holy, different
- C. Justice should be blind
 - 1. Romans depicted as a woman blindfolded
 - a. Sword: swift justice
 - b. Scales: fair
 - 2. Persian courts: judges were blindfolded so they weren't swayed
- D. Love your enemies, reconciliation
- E. Septennial rest
 - 1. God's welfare program
 - 2. 6:1 pattern
 - 3. Sabbath law expanded
 - a. Six years work
 - b. Seven years rest
 - c. Year of Jubilee after 7 cycles (land lost reverted to the original landowner)

Hebrew Terms: שָׁלוֹם; shalom- to make good; שָׁלוֹם; shalom - to make peace

Greek Terms: πορνεία; porneia - fornication

Figures Referenced: Hammurabi

Cross References: Leviticus 22:8; Deuteronomy 5:29; Deuteronomy 22; Deuteronomy 24:6; Psalm 51:5; Psalm 115:8; Proverbs 18:; Luke 19:8; Acts 23:1-5; Romans 3:20; Romans 3:23; James 1:19