

OLD TESTAMENT LAWS – TODAY

(for 11/25/23)

Let us begin today's journey in Matthew 18: 21-35, the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant.

Note that PETER began by asking about FORGIVING A BROTHER.

Note that JESUS answers with a parable about servants, and neighbors.

A "talent" = 20 years wages, for a laborer. (10,000 X 20 = 200,000 years wages.)

A "denarii" = 1 days wages for a laborer. (1 day X 100 = 100 days @ 5 days a week, 20 weeks; @ 6 days per week, would take a little over 16 weeks. Either way, less than ½ a year.)

In the Parable, the servant was forgiven the debt of 10,000 talents. Each talent was 20 years' wages.

If I worked 200,000 years, I could not repay my Master, the debt I owe, for rescuing me from the bondage of sin. (Along the way, I would sin, and incur more debt.)

In that society, at that time in history –and for most societies, until the last 200 or 300 years— Servants were often purchased slaves, some sold for wages. The lucky ones became part of the household, like Mammy, in *Gone With the Wind*. They were part of the household, but servants, nevertheless.

My father's first memories were of a church institutional home for poor children. His mother and father could not afford to rent a home, so they worked as live in servants, in separate households. NO CHILDREN WERE ALLOWED. CHILDREN WERE INSTITUTIONALIZED, in children's homes in the 1890's into the early 1900's.

Servants were bought and sold, like horses for their carriage, might be.

THE SIN THAT CAUSED THIS, IS THE SAME SIN, STILL PLAGUING THE WORLD TODAY. And yes, ignorance of the law IS SIN.

The economy of the United States, and the Western Nations are in terrible condition. WHY?

1 Timothy 6: 10 (NKJV) says that "**the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil**. That is true. The love of money, or status it brings, as well as desire of power blinds many, and brings, or justifies all kinds of evil.

This is one reason. But it was written, a long, long time ago. It is still in effect, today. Men hate it.

With the help of Satan, ignorance of, or mis-representation of the laws blinds the eyes, stops the ears, even of such people who should have known better as Balaam, Korah, and Cain. (Jude 11)

In the Old Testament, many sins are punishable by the death penalty. It is not ambiguous. Throughout the history of Israel, various means to change the law were used. Simply refusing to enforce the law, in the name of compassion were used. Since the Garden, under the influence of Satan, men have acted as if they were more righteous than God, our Creator.

The "revolving door of justice" is not new to today. Every tribe or nation struggling to survive had very harsh penalties and quickly enforced them. As prosperity increased, memories declined. As memories declined, so did morality. As morality declined, so did law enforcement. Excuses were found to excuse the sins of those in power, or their children, or children of those who supported the powerful. Punishment was swift, for those not in power. Two teared justice is not new to our century.

Israel was to be the light to the nations. But, the last two Judges of a long line of dysfunctional judges, Eli and Samuel, either did not train their sons in the ways of God, or they ignored their sins with the women who came to worship the Lord, or work at His Tabernacle.

God, the Creator, has the power of life and death. Men do not. So, we have candlelight vigils outside prisons before a death penalty is carried out. Had the churches taught the truth about the resurrection of the dead, humans would not have to pretend to believe, and teach, that the eternal laws of God were done away with.

It is easier to believe in Valhalla, or some other version of Heaven with the gods, and eternal punishment in hell, with a version of the devil. Perhaps the latter belief, is one reason we make excuses to keep repeat criminals alive, today?

God's law says the death penalty is earned by deeds. A few times in history, God as creator had to step into history and enforce the penalty earned. The Flood, and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, come to mind. When the cup of the Amorites became full, God sent Israel into the Promised Land, to remove them. All who perished will be raised in the Second Resurrection.

Jesus said many times, "It is written", in times of temptation or when asked about the application or the intent of the law.

Let us look to see where it is written, where the parable above was a violation of the written law.

Deuteronomy 15: 1-2. NKJV “At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release of debts. And this the form of the release: Every creditor that lends *anything* to his neighbor shall release it; he shall not require it of his neighbor, or his brother;
(*Why not?*)

Because it is called the Lord’s release. Did you catch that it “**is the Lord’s release**”. God calls it **His** release. It is not mine, or yours. It is the Lord’s release, of debt.
No thirty year’s mortgages, at thousands of dollars profit, oh, interest. (The love of money...) As of 2018, the U.S. has over \$31 trillion in national debt. The UK, France and Germany has similar debt.

The law of the seven year release has been ignored. Our ignorance has punished us.

When Adam and Eve chose their own way, they chose another god. God punished them by evicting them from His garden. Their sins, living without the law, was their punishment.

When Israel sinned against God, and refused to enter the Promised Land, under God’s protection, they were sentenced to living 40 years, in their own sins, until they died.

If you think about it, both are types, symbolic. Adam and Eve sinned, and were put of the garden. Israel sinned, divided into two nations. The nation that continued to choose other gods and goddesses, were put out of the land. What is death, but separation from God?

Israel refused over and over to live within the laws of God. They were culturally, Israelites, but not by Faith, as father Abraham. Being an “Israelite” is a way of life. It is a choice. It is more about faith, then birth.

God let Israel’s sins be their punishment, until He evicted them from His Promised Land. (When His Kingdom comes, Israel will be called back to live by God’s laws.) After generations of ignoring the seven year land release, and many other laws of God, Israel will have the experience needed TO FINALLY CHOOSE to be God’s nation of priests, to the rest of the world.
This is the death penalty, with Godly compassion!

After 2,000, 3,000, 4,000 thousand years, generations of Israel will have their fill of living in sin. Satan will be locked away. A new, post-Tribulation generation will have the experience needed to choose the ways of God, their forefathers in the Wilderness did not have.

Before we go too far down this road, let us go back to the parable of Jesus, in Matthew 18.

One servant owed “ten thousand talents”. A talent was 20 years wages, for a laborer. He was forgiven the debt that would take 200,000 year’s labor to repay!
The same servant went out and found a fellow servant who owed him “a hundred denarii”. One denarius was a day’s wage, for a laborer. He could labor 6 days a week, and repay it in just over 16 weeks.

With that thought in mind, turn to Exodus 20: 1-2.

And God spoke all these words saying, I am the LORD your God, which have brought you out of the house of bondage.

If I worked 200,000 years, can I repay God, for rescuing me from the bondage of sin?

The LORD your God has forgiven each of us 200 one thousand life-times, or, over 2,857 70 year life -times, of labor to repay.

Can we now begin to see how important our experiences of keeping the laws, statutes and judgements of God is?

Just imagine what the world would be like, had the USA observed **Deuteronomy 15: 1-2**, since 1776?

Worker's Rights.

"You shall not oppress a hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of your brethren, or of your strangers that are in your land within your gates: at his day you shall give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and sets his heart upon it; least he cry against you unto the LORD, and it be sin unto you." **Deut 24: 14-15.**

In days before ice boxes, and electric refrigeration, daily shopping for village and city dwellers was a necessity. God does not want human beings to oppress one another, today, either. Today, the oppressors own or fly private jets and pay their workers enough to drive a 15 year old car to work. That was not good enough for them, so they exported the factory, to where pheasants would be happy working for 50 cents, or a dollar, an hour, or a day, again. They build apartments and charge them half their wages. They OWN the Company store.

And we wonder why the Great Tribulation comes.

- *(I worked with a man that had worked as a miner. He was on Union business at an upscale Virginia Beach Hotel. He overheard other men talking around the pool. The gist of the conversation was that they resented the fact that the workers could afford to stay at their hotel. They would have do something about it.*
- *I thought nothing of it, at the time.*
- *Then came the Clinton years, and NAFTA. (Remember those years? A no body from Arkansas made good.) One of us, the working class, so they thought, as Union Jobs went South of the Border.*
- *That did not "oppress the hired servant that is poor and needy" enough. Factories were dismantled in the dark of night and shipped to India, Viet Nam, and CHINA.*

I could go on, with Old Testament laws ignored today...But....

Have we been so concerned about the spiritual, that we forgot about the physical?

Jesus had compassion on the physical condition of the people of Judah. Yes, Jesus even healed on the Sabbath day, to picture a future healing, to come, at His Return.

When Jesus returns, physical healing of the earth, and the minds and bodies of mankind will come first.

The entire Old Testament was written for our example. The physical came first. Then, Jesus came to save.....but, only a few!!!

How many people attended the last Feast of Tabernacles, you attended?

What was the daily attendance? The HIGH count? Daily average?

Thousands?

Hundreds?

100? 50? 20? Lord forgive me, I will speak only once more, were there TEN, 10 RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE?

WHAT IS SIN?

1 John 3: 4. “Whosoever commits sin transgresses the law: for sin is transgression of the law.” It has been trained into us. No thought needed. We tell the preacher and get patted on the head.

That is today. What about, in days before the New Testament---how would that question be answered?

Judah had been exiled from the land, for 70 years. Now they, some of them, have come back. Everyone had an opinion of the cause. So, when a new guy came along, they would ask, to see whether their teaching lined up with the Orthodox teachings.

“Which is the first commandment of all?” One of the scribes asked Jesus, in Mark 12:28. It was a lay-up question of the day. Everyone trained in the seminary of that day knew it was the fourth commandment. That is why the class educated in the laws of Mosaic law had invented over 100 fences, laws to keep the masses back from violating the **FOURTH COMMANDMENT.**

Mark 12:29. And Jesus answered him. The first of all the commandments is Hear oh Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:

It is a quote within a quote. Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy 6: 4.

Jesus went on to explain:

Mark 12: 30. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your mind, and with all your strength: this is the first commandment.

Sermons have been given on these two verses.

Let us limit our discussion today to the two laws already mentioned from Deuteronomy 15 and 24.

The first commandment begins ,

“I am the LORD your God which brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.” (Exodus 20: 2 and Deuteronomy 5: 6.)

What is Patriotism? Love of country. Follow the laws. Defend it from enemies. Willingly.

It was learned first in the home. Love parents. Respect and do their instructions. Defend against attacks. That is how we are to love—and SERVE—God.

God is Creator. He makes the law, rules, for the benefit of all, not just Himself.

Why the year of release? (Deuteronomy 15: 1-2.). Let us let God answer that in verse 6.

Deuteronomy 15: 6. **“For the LORD your God blesses you, as He promised you: and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow; and you shall reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over you.”**

When, in the history of Israel, even in the glorious reign of King David, did Israel do this?

God is the source of blessings, and prosperity.

In the beginning, God created Adam in His image. He was appointed or anointed as Dresser and Keeper of the Garden. He did not do this, and neither has ADAM’S children.

The land Sabbath occurs on same year as the 7th year of release.

Like tithing, the land sabbath, and the year of release, all **honors God**, as **the source** of all things good.

Think about it. Forgiving debts takes Faith. Tithing takes faith. Giving, letting, trusting God to Repay, takes FAITH. Israel was Abraham's children, by faith. W/O faith, could not enter. Being able to lend to needy brings loyalty. Teaching opportunity. Gratefulness. When done right.

The lender rules over the borrower. Maybe not need a large standing Army?

Recall that Israel was called to be priests, teaches, of God's Way, to the nations, in Exodus 19:6.

That is the destiny of the Firstborn, also called "The Bride of Christ" in the first resurrection.

HOPE YOU ALL HAD A THANKFUL THAKNSGIVING. Did you thank God for the hard times, we endured, that has trained us?

Life is our training for His Kingdom. Be thankful.

(Bert Devin, for 11/25/2023, Sabbath after Thanksgiving.)

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

WHEN THE GOVERNMENT FREEZES YOUR BANK ACCOUNT?

HOW WILL YOU BUY FOOD?

HOW WILL YOU BUY GAS, TO GO TO THE DOCTOR---OR PAY HIM, OR HER?

WHAT ABOUT TAXES? Electricity? Heat?

No money, no house, electricity, or heat.

How will you live?

Who is YOUR God?