

The Law XVIII – Deuteronomy V
August 19, 2006

Deuteronomy 24

- 1 "When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house,
- 2 "when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man's wife,
- 3 "if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife,
- 4 "then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.
- **5 "When a man has taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war or be charged with any business; he shall be free at home one year, and bring happiness to his wife whom he has taken.**
 - What a honeymoon!
 - How many marriages today would be salvaged if we spent our first year getting to know each other better?
- 6 "No man shall take the lower or the upper millstone in pledge, for he takes one's living in pledge.
 - Every Israelite family had a millstone for grinding their own family's flour for bread
 - To take that as collateral, would deprive the family of it's bread if the debt was not paid and the millstone was taken
- 7 "If a man is found kidnapping any of his brethren of the children of Israel, and mistreats him or sells him, then that kidnapper shall die; and you shall put away the evil from among you.
- 8 "Take heed in an outbreak of leprosy, that you carefully observe and do according to all that the priests, the Levites, shall teach you; just as I commanded them, so you shall be careful to do.
 - Remember that the word for leprosy covered any number of skin rashes and most were communicable
- 9 "Remember what the LORD your God did to Miriam on the way when you came out of Egypt.
- 10 "When you lend your brother anything, you shall not go into his house to get his pledge.
- 11 "You shall stand outside, and the man to whom you lend shall bring the pledge out to you.
- 12 "And if the man is poor, you shall not keep his pledge overnight.
- 13 "You shall in any case return the pledge to him again when the sun goes down, that he may sleep in his own garment and bless you; and it shall be righteousness to you before the LORD your God.
 - Protection for the poor
- 14 "You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether one of your brethren or one of the aliens who is in your land within your gates.

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- 15 "Each day you shall give him his wages, and not let the sun go down on it, for he is poor and has set his heart on it; lest he cry out against you to the LORD, and it be sin to you.
 - A laborer depended on each day's pay to pay for food
 - Today' economy would consider this economically infeasible
- 16 "Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin.
 - ***Individual responsibility!!!!***
- 17 "You shall not pervert justice due the stranger or the fatherless, nor take a widow's garment as a pledge.
 - No preferential treatment
- 18 "But you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this thing.
- 19 "When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.
- 20 "When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.
- 21 "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not glean it afterward; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.
 - Always plant enough for the stranger and the poor to eat
 - Read Ruth to get an excellent rendition of this provision
- 22 "And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I command you to do this thing.

Deuteronomy 25

- 1 "If there is a dispute between men, and they come to court, that the judges may judge them, and they justify the righteous and condemn the wicked,
- 2 "then it shall be, if the wicked man deserves to be beaten, that the judge will cause him to lie down and be beaten in his presence, according to his guilt, with a certain number of blows.
- 3 "Forty blows he may give him and no more, lest he should exceed this and beat him with many blows above these, and your brother be humiliated in your sight.
- 4 "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.
 - Let the ox eat while he works
- 5-10 describes the marriage duties of the surviving brother
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- 11 "If two men fight together, and the wife of one draws near to rescue her husband from the hand of the one attacking him, and puts out her hand and seizes him by the genitals,
- 12 "then you shall cut off her hand; your eye shall not pity her.
- **13 "You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a heavy and a light.**
- **14 "You shall not have in your house differing measures, a large and a small.**

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- **15 "You shall have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure, that your days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.**
 - Only the highest ethics were demanded in business dealings
- 16 "For all who do such things, all who behave unrighteously, are an abomination to the LORD your God.
- 17-19 Destroy the Amalekites because of Amalek's attitude toward God
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Deuteronomy 26

- 1-15 Deal with the offerings of Firstfruits and Tithes
 - but let's look at 11-13
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- **11 "So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you and your house, you and the Levite and the stranger who is among you.**
- **12 "When you have finished laying aside all the tithe of your increase in the third year-the year of tithing-and have given it to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, so that they may eat within your gates and be filled,**
- **13 "then you shall say before the LORD your God: 'I have removed the holy tithe from my house, and also have given them to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, according to all Your commandments which You have commanded me; I have not transgressed Your commandments, nor have I forgotten them.**
 - Notice who is the recipient of the tithe
 - The Levites, of course, since they had no paid work
 - The stranger
 - The orphans
 - The widows
 - Where does that leave us with tithing today?
 - We will do a Bible Study on tithing later
- 16 "This day the LORD your God commands you to observe these statutes and judgments; therefore you shall be careful to observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.
- 17 "Today you have proclaimed the LORD to be your God, and that you will walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments, and His judgments, and that you will obey His voice.
 - The Israelites agreed to do their part
- 18 "Also today the LORD has proclaimed you to be His special people, just as He promised you, that you should keep all His commandments,
 - special = segullah = God's special treasure – it refers to the prized possession of kings
 - Malachi 3.17 speaks of the people God will regard as His "jewels"
 - God's treasure is human beings!

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- 19 "and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honor, and that you may be a holy people to the LORD your God, just as He has spoken."