Exodus – The Revealing of God's Glory and His Design for the Chosen

#76 – Character Counts and the Law Displays God's Character

Exodus 22:16-17

This is a case law emerging from the Seventh Commandment:

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Deuteronomy 22:25-27

"23 If there is a girl who is a virgin engaged to a man, and another man finds her in the city and lies with her, ²⁴ then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city and you shall stone them to death; the girl, because she did not cry out in the city, and the man, because he has violated his neighbor's wife. Thus you shall purge the evil from among you.

"25 But if in the field the man finds the girl who is engaged, and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man who lies with her shall die. ²⁶ But you shall do nothing to the girl; there is no sin in the girl worthy of death, for just as a man rises against his neighbor and murders him, so is this case. ²⁷ When he found her in the field, the engaged girl cried out, but there was no one to save her."

Genesis 24:53

"53 The servant brought out articles of silver and articles of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother."

Deuteronomy 22:13-21

"13 If any man takes a wife and goes in to her (has sexual relations) and then turns against her, ¹⁴ and charges her with shameful deeds and publicly defames her, and says, 'I took this woman, but when I came near her, I did not find her a virgin,' 15 then the girl's father and her mother shall take and bring out the evidence of the girl's virginity to the elders of the city at the gate. ¹⁶ The girl's father shall say to the elders, 'I gave my daughter to this man for a wife, but he turned against her;

¹⁷ and behold, he has charged her with shameful deeds, saying, "I did not find your daughter a virgin." But this is the evidence of my daughter's virginity.' And they shall spread the garment before the elders of the city. ¹⁸ So the elders of that city shall take the man and chastise him, ¹⁹ and they shall fine him a hundred shekels of silver and give it to the girl's father, because he publicly defamed a virgin of Israel. And she shall remain his wife; he cannot divorce her all his days.

"20 But if this charge is true, that the girl was not found a virgin, ²¹ then they shall bring out the girl to the doorway of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death because she has committed an act of folly in Israel by playing the harlot in her father's house; thus you shall purge the evil from among you."

The father had the final say.

If the father refused, the offenders still had to pay the wedding price.

Why?

Sex is a good and healthy expression of a devoted love between a woman and man.

Young people possess your vessel in honor.

I Corinthians 7:2-4

"2 But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. ³ The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. ⁴ The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does."

Gentlemen, the buck stops with you.

While there is no restitutionary process for sexual sin, it is not the unpardonable sin.