

Sermon Notes

Exodus – The Revealing of God’s Glory and His Design for the Chosen #77

“Laws for Life: Dos and Don’ts from a Holy God”
Exodus 22:18-31

I. Introduction.

- A. Wisdom and Knowledge: Discovered or taught.
- B. Today – divine wisdom from a holy God.

1. The text: Exodus 22:18-31

II. Exposition

A. Capital Crimes – Verse 18-20

- 1. Sorcery
 - a. A female and male problem. Deut. 18:10; Lev. 20:27a
 - b. Any attempt to know God’s will apart from His revealed will is strictly forbidden.

- 2. Bestiality
 - a. Canaanite practice – Baal. Lev. 18:23-24.

- 3. Idolatry
 - a. “Destroyed” – utter and complete destruction.

B. Foreigners and the disadvantaged, verses 21-24

- 1. Foreigners
 - a. Pastor Don in Russia
 - b. The alien had rights – Lev. 19:10; 25:6
- 2. Widows and orphans
 - a. Lost family and livelihood
- 3. God’s judgment is upon those who abuse these misfortunate people.
- 4. The three groups become idiomatic in Scripture.
(Deut. 14:29; 16:11, 14; 24:19-21; 26:12-13; 27:19)

C. Loaning at Interest, verses 25-27.

- 1. Israelites were not permitted to take advantage of someone else’s misfortune.
- 2. Interest permitted for foreigners and within the covenantal community, but not allowed for the poor.
 - a. Deuteronomy 23:19-20; Matthew 25:27
- 3. Jewish scholarship on interest.
- 4. The “cloak” – collateral. Deuteronomy 24:12-13.

D. Compassion and graciousness required, verse 28.

- 1. Do not disrespect those who are in authority.
 - a. Note Paul – Acts 23:1-5

F. First fruits are Gods, verse 29.

- 1. Second best is never good enough.

G. First born belongs to God, verses 29-30.

- 1. Covered in Exodus, chapter 13.
- 2. First born – symbolic for all children. The family belongs to God.

H. No road kill, verse 31.

- 1. Ritual purity.
- 2. Not fit for human consumption.

III. Points for Reflection

- A. Beware of the modern day fascination with the occult.
- B. Even though the USA has a significant safety net for the poor, there are still opportunities to give to people who are trying to lift themselves out of poverty.
- C. Respect those who are in authority over you.
- D. The first and best of our income belongs to God.
- E. Remember God’s consecration of the firstborn. Our children belong to God.