

## Deuteronomy 21:10-22:12 (February 19, 2021)

**Reflection:** *What does your faith have to do with the relationships to your family?*

**Goal:** that the Scripture discloses what our family relationships look like and helps to provide a structure for us to think of how to live rightly in these relationships. Contrasting this with non-Christians, our view of family is to be seen through the lens of Scripture.

**Read Deuteronomy 21:10-23 – Brides of War and Handling of Children**

**1. What are Moses' instructions about war brides? (v.10-14) the inheritance of children among different wives? (v.15-17) Rebellious children? (v.18-21) A person hung on the tree? (v.22-23)**

**i. What is Moses' instructions for war brides? (v.10-14)**

- The Lord gives enemy into your hand and you take captives, and you see a beautiful woman, and desire to take her to be your wife
- Shave her head, trim her nails, remove her clothing she was captured in
- Let her mourn her family for a month
- Then you can have intimate relations with her and she shall be your wife
- If you no longer delight in her, let her go where she wants. You cannot sell her for money nor can you treat her as a slave as you humiliated her

**ii. The inheritance of children among different wives? (v.15-17)**

- Man has two wives, one loved one not and both wives have your children
- You cannot assign the loved one's son the firstborn's inheritance if he is not the first born

**iii. Rebellious children? (v.18-21)**

- If you have a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his mother and father
- Though they discipline him he will not listen to them
- Then his parents will bring him before the elders and declare their son as stubborn and rebellious
- He is a glutton and drunkard
- Stone him to death so you shall purge the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear, and fear

**iv. A person hung on the tree? (v.22-23)**

- If a person commits a crime punishable by death hang him on a tree
- Body shall not remain all night on the tree, bury him the same day
- He is cursed by God
- Do not defile your land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance.

**Leader's notes:**

God does not spell out in specific detail why many Laws are the way that they are. One thing we do know is that there are laws written because of the hardness of man's heart. E.g., divorce (Matthew 19:8). Secondly, our culture today is vastly different than the culture and situation that they lived in and hence we should expect many differences and things that seem odd to the modern ear. Thirdly, that these are shadows of greater realities to be found in Christ. (Col 2:17) What we do know that God demanded a higher standard of morality than that of the nations around them.

**Some reasons why God's law created an allowance (probably need a longer discussion for this):**

1. Warbrides – this follows after the discussion about fighting with a city who they have offered peace to and that peace was rejected. (Deu 20:10-18). The men were to be devoted to destruction, but women, children, livestock are all spoils. It would be hard to envision a situation where they could just leave them alive. Women

and children would suffer and may suffer worse fate. Nor, should they set them for destruction. Therefore, a more humane way to deal with the situation was in ownership or marriage, which is a better fate than the other situations.

2. Polygamy – the patriarchal culture that Israel lived in unmarried women did not have a way to provide for herself. Women were uneducated and untrained, and if she did not have some support system to rely on, she may have to turn to prostitution or slavery. Polygamy allowed for a woman to be provided for and protected and to not have to sell herself for survival. The ideal as we see in the Bible is monogamy. God's design was to be monogamous (Genesis 2:24), kings were to be monogamous (Deu 17:14-20), and in the New Testament elders were to imitate this ideal of having only one wife (1 Tim 3:2,12, Titus 1:6)

**2. Moses writes several laws in the Pentateuch to address the potential abuse of women in martial situations including what is said in v.10-14. Why is this significant to a covenant community?(cf. Gen 1:26, Deu 11:13-22)**

- a. From the passage, God cares for women
- b. Women are made in God's image (Gen 1:26)
- c. Covenant righteousness means the right treatment of women and those in vulnerable situations.
  - As Deu 11 says, that these laws is what covenant faithfulness is about. Since this is something that is spoken about more than once
  - That taking care of the vulnerable, such as women who are abused in martial situations requires is part of how God's people should see what God desires for them

**3. Why do you think there is such a punishment for incorrigible sons (cf. Gen 17:9-14, Deu 5:16), How should children conduct themselves in their families in the New Covenant? (cf. Eph 6:1-4)**

***i. Why do you think there is such a punishment for incorrigible boys (cf. Gen 17:9-14, Deu 5:16)***

- Children are part of the covenant community and are also called to obey God's commandments.
  - Circumcision in Gen 17:9-14 makes them part of the covenant community and hence they must obey the covenant rules as well
  - Deu 5:16 seems especially applicable to children then, who take part in covenant obedience firstly by obeying their parents
  - Seems like he is stubbornly rebellious (v.18), and despite the discipline of his parents, he is still disobedient. (8:5, 22: 18 seems like the normative behaviour was discipline was first)
  - If they disobey now, what will they be like later.
- Children are responsible moral agents
- God strongly upholds the order
- Continual rebellion meant death by hanging
- No examples of children dying this way and God does not kill Israel for their disobedience (Cf. Hosea 11:8-9). I believe that this was to show what disobedient children, including Israel deserved.

***ii. How should children conduct themselves in their families in the New Covenant? (cf. Eph 6:1-4, Col 3:20)***

- Children are still seen as moral agents in the new Covenant, and they should submit to their parents for the sake of the Lord

**4. V.22-23, "A Man hanged on a Tree is Cursed" is referred to in Galatians 3:13, how does this passage relate to Christ's sacrifice? (Cf. 2 Cor 5:21)**

- "the curse of God" - To something people do to or against God

- Christ became took on the curse for us

**5. How should husbands, wives, and children relate to one another because of Christ? (cf. Col 3:18-21), How should adults relate to their aging parents? (1 Tim 5:8, 16) Why should we relate to one another this way?**

**i. How should husbands, wives, and children relate to one another because of Christ? (cf. Col 3:18-21)**

- Husbands love your wives (personally, sacrificially, lead for your family's good)
- Wives submit to your husbands.
- Children obey your parents.

**ii. How should adults relate to their aging parents? (1 Tim 5:8, 16) Why should we relate to one another this way?**

- We do this not because of the greatness of that person, but because this pleases the Lord and we do it with heart felt sincerity

**Read Deuteronomy 22:1-12 – Domestic Issues**

**5. Summarize the 9 circumstances (v.1-3, 4,5,6-7,8, 9, 10, 11, 12) and include how Moses expects the Israelites to act in these different domestic situations.**

v. 1-3: If your brother's sheep or ox go astray do not ignore them but take them back to your brother. If you do not live near or you don't know whose it is, then hold onto it for your brother, and restore it to him when he seeks it. Do this also with a donkey or garment.

v.4: You should not ignore if your brother's animal has fallen down. Help him.

v.5-6: A woman shall not wear a man's things nor should a man put on a woman's clothes. This is an abomination to the Lord your God

v. 6-7: If you find a bird's nest on floor or tree, take the young but leave the mother. That it may go well with you and you may live long

v.8: When you build a house include a parapet for your roof. So you may not bring blood guilt on your hose if someone falls from it

v. 9: You shall not sow two kinds of seeds in your vineyard, or your whole yield will be forfeited

v. 10: You shall not plow with an ox and donkey together

v. 11: You shall not wear cloth of wool and linen mixed together

v. 12: You shall make for yourself tassels on four corners of the garment

**6. "Love your neighbour as yourself" is an important concept for God's people in both New and Old Testament. What are some general principles we can draw from these passages about how one should love their neighbour? (v.1-3, 4, 6-7, 8) Name some practical ways these principles might lead us to love our neighbours?**

**i. General principles:**

Be on the lookout to help your neighbour wight wayward animals, take them back to him v.1

You shall care for them if you cannot give back his animals as if they are yours, do this also with other animals and clothes, not to ignore it but to do something about it v.2-3

You shall help your neighbor when his animals are in trouble, you will help v.4

Even with animals we are to be compassionate, tender, and sympathetic, true of lesser true of greater v.6-7

Building a new house, you should consider the well being of those who come over v.8

- To not ignore situations, to help, to treat what is his as you treat your own, you should think of others safety and well being.

**ii. Name some practical ways these principles might lead us to love our neighbours?**

**Goal:** We should be cognisant of loving our neighbours as it requires us to be vigilant, active, compassionate and looking to restore to them that is theirs.

- E.g., shoveling snow, caring for a neighbour in need

**7. What do these passages tell us about the blurring of boundaries that God has created? (v. 5, 9-11) (cf. Lev 19:19), How does 2 Cor 6:14-15 apply this command for us today?**

**i. What do these passages tell us about the blurring of boundaries that God has created? (v. 5, 9-11) (cf. Lev 19:19),**

V.5 – blurring the lines between men and women

v. 9 two kinds of seeds for a vineyard. Seeding another crop between the rows of grapevines known as intercropping. However, Israelites should not do this even if it creates a bigger yield. The idea is that the crop is

v.10 – forbids yoking of two different animals together, because both animals have different abilities and body types, stamina. The weaker one would exhaust faster. However, for Israel, it was a bond of clean and unclean (donkey considered unclean in Ex 13:13) working together (cf. 2 Cor 6:14-15)

11 – fits well into mixing of crops. Reserve for those who served Yahweh's presence.

In general, seemed to prohibit against boundary violations that defy the order of the universe

**ii. How does 2 Cor 6:14-15 apply this command for us today?**

- 2 Cor 6:14-15: That Christians and Non-Christians shouldn't be partnered specifically in marriage.

**8. The wearing of tassels is a constant reminder of God's commands to them (cf. Num 15:38-40). What are some ways we can remember God's commands to us today?(v.12)**

**i. The wearing of tassels is a constant reminder of God's commands to them (cf. Num 15:38-40)**

- To remind the ones who wore them and outsiders of Israel of special status as the covenant people of God. It was a reminder of God's law

**ii. what are some ways we can remember God's commands to us today? (v.12)**

**Goal:** To think of some ways we can consider how to remind ourselves of how we should live today e.g., committing the Bible to memory

**Our practices and views today about family and domestic life may be different than that of the Israelites, but how we live out our faith in these situations is no less important to God today. We should strive to make our family and domestic values the same as His.**