

Bible Study #38
Community Lutheran Church
12/30/2020

1. Exodus 23 Continued (Right after the 10 commandments)...
 - a. Then God makes a dramatic “statement” or adds a symbolic exclamation point on these words...
 - i. When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.” 20:18-19
 1. The people understand the gravity of the moment.
 2. And they understand the power of God.
 - b. Moses responds to the people...
 - i. Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.” The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was. 20:20-21
 - c. God gives instruction on how to worship and sacrifice to the Lord...
 - i. Then the Lord said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites this: ‘You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven: Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold. “ ‘Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you. If you make an altar of stones for me, do not build it with dressed stones, for you will defile it if you use a tool on it. And do not go up to my altar on steps, lest your nakedness be exposed on it.’ 20:22-26
 1. No graven images or statues.
 2. No junior gods or competing gods
 3. Altar is to be made of dirt or uncut stone.
 4. No altar on steps in case it might cause you to be naked at some point.
2. Exodus 21
 - a. Indentured Servitude...
 - i. “If you buy a Hebrew servant, he is to serve you for six years. But in the seventh year, he shall go free, without paying anything. If he comes alone, he is to go free alone; but if he has a wife when he comes, she is to go with him. If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the woman and her children shall belong to her master, and only the man shall go free. “But if the servant declares, ‘I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free,’ then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for

life. "If a man sells his daughter as a servant, she is not to go free as menservants do. If she does not please the master who has selected her for himself, he must let her be redeemed. He has no right to sell her to foreigners, because he has broken faith with her. If he selects her for his son, he must grant her the rights of a daughter. If he marries another woman, he must not deprive the first one of her food, clothing and marital rights. If he does not provide her with these three things, she is to go free, without any payment of money. 21:2-11

1. This is not our world.

2. We don't think this acceptable in any way, shape or form.

- b. More rules on Personal Injury 21:12-35

- i. Death penalty for murder

- ii. Rules for how to treat your parents (no violence or cursing them)

- iii. Restitution for those who are attacked and incapacitated

- iv. Restitution if a fight results in a woman having a miscarriage

- v. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise. 21:23-25

1. No cruel or unusual punishment

- vi. Restitution for slaves being injured (set free)

- vii. What happens when a bull gores someone

3. Exodus 22

- a. Rules on Protection of Property 22:1-15

- i. A lot of provisions about livestock

- b. Various Rules on Social Responsibility 22:16-31

- i. Some religious rules, some on sexual purity, some on how to conduct yourself with others, and others about their responsibility to God.