

Bible Study #39
Community Lutheran Church
1/06/2020

1. Exodus 23

a. Laws about Justice and mercy...

- i. Do not spread false reports. Do not help a wicked man by being a malicious witness. 23:1
 1. Don't lie and don't spread false or misleading information.
- ii. Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd, and do not show favoritism to a poor man in his lawsuit. 23:2-3
 1. Be factual witness based on evidence not because that is the side you want to be on.
 2. Including don't side with the poor because they poor.
 3. Facts matter.
- iii. Return a lost animal (livestock) to its owner or help them. 23:4-5
 1. This isn't "Finders keepers, losers weepers."
 2. Help people in need even if they are your enemy.
- iv. The poor in lawsuits (To make sure we have balance)...
 1. Do not deny justice to your poor people in their lawsuits. Have nothing to do with a false charge and do not put an innocent or honest person to death, for I will not acquit the guilty. 23:6-7
 - a. Don't take advantage of others for any reason.
- v. Don't take bribes (sell your soul)
 1. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and twists the words of the righteous. 23:8
- vi. Don't oppress the outsider...
 1. Do not oppress an alien; you yourselves know how it feels to be aliens, because you were aliens in Egypt. 23:9

b. Three Annual Festivals... 23:14-19

- i. Passover (Feast of the Unleavened Bread) 23:15
- ii. Feast of the Harvest (Shavout—wheat harvest) 23:16
- iii. Feast of the Ingathering (Sukkot—another harvest festival) 23:16b
- iv. A gathering of Israelite men three times a year 23:17

c. Back to the story... versus law giving.

- i. "See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my Name is in him. If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you. My angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out. Do not bow down before their gods

or worship them or follow their practices. You must demolish them and break their sacred stones to pieces. Worship the Lord your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span. 23:20-26

1. A promise... but also a warning.
2. A call for obedience.

To be continued!