

Sermon Notes

Loving Justice: for all kinds of people, in all areas of life

Exodus 20:22-23:19

Intro: Why do we need to know how to handle an “ox goring” today?!?

Is God pro-slavery and even beating slaves to death?!?!

NB. 1. **Don't misunderstand** these “case law” rules in Israel's covenant...

- a) ...they are not the LORD's “ideal” society, but regulating sin justly
- b) ...they do not automatically map directly to Scotland today
- c) ...they are not exhaustive, but examples: key principles of justice

NB. 2. **Don't minimize** how helpful these rules are to reflect upon still...

- a) ...they help us see God's just nature and caring character
- b) ...they help us to not evade the 10 commandments on the ground
- c) ...they give examples of wise justice to learn what is fair & just today

Seeing the shape of the “Book of the Covenant” case law:

20:22-26 Right worship of the LORD: altars

21:1-11 The LORD's concern for the vulnerable: slaves

21:12-22:20 Proportionate punishment: lost lives & goods

22:21-12 The LORD's concern for the vulnerable: poor, alien

23:13-19 Right worship of the LORD: offerings

Three big lessons for us to learn:

1. Love and justice for all kinds of neighbour begins and ends with love and worship to God (20:22-26 & 23:13-19)

2. Because God cares for the vulnerable and hears their cries (21:1-11 & 22:21-23:12)

How & when slaves must be set free (with loving exceptions)
(21:1-11)

God's warning: do not exploit immigrants & poor unjustly
(22:21-23:12)

The reminder: this all connects to how you love and worship God
(22:28-21)

3. In fact God's perfect justice requires a reckoning for all the ways we cause loss to others (21:12-22:20)

All parts of life: but note, people matter more than things

All kinds of people: every life matters

All levels of culpability: intentional, negligent, accident

Conclusion: where should all of that leave us?

More guilty than we may at first realise, and so...

More grateful for the Lord Jesus, who paid the ransom for our lives