

Exodus Chapter 22

Applications of the 10 commandments, now continuing in the area of property rights:

V: 1 If a man steals an ox and either kills it or sells it, then he shall restore it by making restitution; giving the victim 5 oxen; or four sheep for a sheep.

- Notice thus far that the penalties have either been death outright, corporal punishment, or restitution – no mention of jail time or prison.
- Herod put John the Baptist into prison, the Apostles were put in “hold” in the Temple compound over night while the Sanhedrin decided what to do with them, Peter spent a night in jail, as did Paul on occasion – this is the invention of man, not of God.
- 2008 statistics detail that there were 7.3 million people either in our various prisons here in the US or on some kind of parole or probation in lieu of actual incarceration. That is 31 out of every 100.

Proverbs 6:30-31 “³⁰Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; ³¹But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.”

Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus restores 4 fourfold

- Zacchaeus’ willingness to make restoration, even to his own hurt was evidence of his repentance, his desire to be in communion with Jesus.

V: 2-3 If a thief is breaking into a house at night and in trying to stop him, he ends up being killed, then the previous laws regarding murder do not apply – in essence his blood is on his own hands.

- If it’s daylight however, then all the previous laws do apply – can’t just kill him.
- That thief however shall make restitution, either by paying back fully or by being sold into slavery.

V: 4 If the thief is caught with what he has stolen, meaning he hasn’t killed it or sold it, then he shall restore double.

There is a slight exception to this found in Numbers:

Numbers 5:6-7 “⁶Speak unto the children of Israel, when a man or woman shall commit any sin that men commit, to do a trespass against the Lord, and that person be guilty; ⁷Then they shall confess their sin which they have done: and he shall recompense his trespass with the principal thereof, and add unto it the fifth part thereof, and give it unto him against whom he hath trespassed.”

- If the person who stole something was convicted in his heart and confessed his sin before getting caught, we would restore the original value + 20% and be cleared.

V: 5 If a man allows his animals to graze or feed in another mans field or vineyard, he must make restitution by giving of the best of his crops.

V: 6 If a man kindles a fire that gets out of control and destroys another mans field or crops – he must make restitution.

V: 7-8 If a neighbor stores something at someone else’s house for safe keeping, and it is stolen – then the thief is to pay double.

- If the thief is not found, then the owner of the house is to be examined about the theft before the judges.

V: 9 Basically this is what is know as RSP – Receiving Stolen Property, 496 PC.

- Being in possession of something that someone else claims was stolen from them, both parties go before the judge who figures out if the one in possession bought it from someone else not knowing it was stolen, or if they are guilty somehow.

1 Corinthians 6:1-4 “¹Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? ²Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? ³Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life? ⁴If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.”

- In those days, the leaders were spiritual leaders – priests etc. He is saying that it is better to go to the church for judgment as opposed to civil courts. The world is more about slick legal maneuvering than the truth, whereas the church is much more focused on the truth.

Deuteronomy 16:18-19 “¹⁸Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the Lord thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes: and they shall judge the people with just judgment. ¹⁹Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doeth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.”

V: 10-13 If a man leaves his livestock with his neighbor and it dies, or gets hurt, or just disappears, if the neighbor doesn't have knowledge of what happened he shall make an oath before the Lord – and that shall be acceptable to the owner.

- There is an element of taking a man at his word, accepting his oath before the Lord, knowing that all things are known by God.

Hebrews 4:13 “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight but all things are naked and open unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

- But if the animal is stolen, the neighbor who was responsible for watching it shall make restitution to the owner.
- 70% of all theft crimes happen within families where one family member is the perpetrator.
- If it was killed by wild animals, then the remains must be presented as proof to the owner, and the neighbor is off the hook.
- The bottom line is that we shouldn't be in too big a hurry to watch our neighbors' stuff – too much at stake if it gets stolen, broken, or some mishap occurs.

V: 14-15 If a man borrows another man's ox to plow his field and it just keels over and dies, then he has to pay the owner for the price of the ox.

- If in the same scenario the owner of the ox came with it to plow the guy's field and the ox keels over and dies then he doesn't need to make restitution.
- If the man was renting the ox, and it keels over, then no restitution is required, the owner has already received his restitution through the rental income.

V: 16-17 If a man seduces an un-married, which by definition includes an un-betrothed girl to bed with him, then the only way to make it right is to marry the girl.

- This is describing pre-marital sexual relationships.
- If the father however rejects the man, then that man will have to pay restitution in the form of her dowry. This is because her chances of a future marriage are greatly diminished as she is no longer a virgin.
- The man was encouraged to do the “right thing”.
- Parents were given great sway in their children's lives.

Deuteronomy 22:28-29 “²⁸If a man find a damsel that is a virgin, which is not betrothed, and lay hold on her, and lie with her, and they be found; ²⁹then the man that lay with her shall give unto the damsel’s father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife; because he hath humbled her, he may not put her away all his days.”

1 Corinthians 6:9 “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither ¹fornicators, nor ²idolaters (sexual rituals), nor ³adulterers, nor ⁴effeminate, nor ⁵abusers of themselves with mankind,…”

- God hasn’t eased up on this in the New Testament – eternal damnation is the sentence apart from forgiveness.
- 5 sexual sins listed here: idolatry involved / involves sexual sin + it relates to spiritual fornication.

V: 18-19 Witches, those involved in bestiality, and those that worshipped any other god besides the true and living God were to be utterly destroyed.

Leviticus 20:6 “And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a-whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.”

Leviticus 20:27 “A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.”

- Some people think that these measures are too harsh – but this is simply what it would lead to anyway.
- Witchcraft, sorcery, devil worship eventually leads to human sacrifice.
 - Bestiality: pro-life Phil Magnan, 80-90 websites / 400,000+ sites!

Leviticus 18:23 “Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion.” (perversion)

Leviticus 20:15-16 “¹⁵And if a man lie with a beast, he shall surely be put to death: and ye shall slay the beast. ¹⁶And if a woman approach unto any beast, and lie down thereto, thou shalt kill the woman, and the beast: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.”

- Bestiality, leads to death as well. The aid virus which has killed 100’s of thousands of people and will continue to do so, it has an incubation period that can last up to 10 years before it breaks out.

- As of 2008 there were 33.4 million people world wide that were known to be infected with the HIV / Aids virus, including 2.1 million children, with 2.7 million new cases having been reported in 2008.
- Since 1981 over 25 million people have died of AIDS.
- While homosexuality and promiscuity in general have played a part in these statistics, researchers discovered that the initial cause of the AIDs virus was bestiality; specifically a man that was involved in a sexual relationship with a monkey in Africa.
- Animals have their own diseases which they are equipped to deal with. When men and animals interact in sexual ways, diseases are transmitted back and forth into men, who are not equipped to deal with animal diseases and viruses.
- What is the latest most highly touted health risk? “Swine” flue, before that “avian” flue, before that “mad cow” disease....
- Had that man been put to death as required from a Biblical perspective, how many lives might have been saved?

V: 20 He that sacrifices / worships a false god, shall be destroyed.

¹st commandment:

Exodus 20:1-5 “I am the Lord thy God... thou shalt have no other gods before Me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing... thou shalt not bow down thy self to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God...”

- Worshipping pagan gods in the ancient world almost always involved grotesque sexual perversion that we can't describe.
- The worship of false gods leads to death, only in the worship of the true and living God is there any hope of salvation.

Matthew 7:13-14 ¹³Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. ¹⁴Because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.”

V: 21 They were to treat strangers in their midst and foreigners well.

- Vex: (H3238) yanah, to rage or be violent: to suppress, to maltreat:--destroy, (thrust out by) oppress (-ing, -ion, -or), proud, vex, do violence.
- They were to be good witnesses.

Romans 12:13 "... given to hospitality..."

1 Timothy 3:2 / Titus 1:8 Leaders are "to be given to hospitality."

Hebrews 13:1-2 "¹Let brotherly love continue. ²Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

- Because you were in their shoes, don't forget where you came from.

V: 22-24 God takes special care of widows and orphans.

- This is the first time that we see God say that He will personally intervene.

Psalms 94:1-7 "¹O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, shew thyself. ²Lift up thyself, thou judge of the earth: render a reward to the proud. ³Lord, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph? ⁴How long shall they utter and speak hard things? And all the workers of iniquity boast themselves? ⁵They break in pieces thy people, O Lord, and afflict thine heritage. ⁶They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the fatherless. ⁷Yet they say, the Lord shall not see, neither shall the God of Jacob regard it."

James 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless..."

- If they are afflicted God will hear their cry – His wrath will wax hot – and He will take retribution upon those responsible.
- Basically God says that if they cry out to Me because of your affliction, I'll wipe you out, and your wife and children will experience being a widow or an orphan.

V: 25 Lending of money, particularly to the poor should be without interest, the opposite of our current system.

V: 26-27 If you take a persons clothing as a pledge against a loan, even if he can't pay it back – you should give him his clothes back before the sun goes down.

- God wants him to have his covering, He wants him to rest in his covering.

- Jesus is our covering, and it's in Him that we find our rest.

Isaiah 61:10 “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.”

V: 28 You shall not revile the gods / judges, nor curse the ruler of thy people.

Romans 13:1-2 “¹Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. ²Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.”

V: 29-30 God requires the first fruits of all our increase; financially in the form in those days of their crops, wine, their sons, and cattle.

Proverbs 3:9 “Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thine increase:”

- Their sons could be redeemed, but all the other things were to be given to the Lord.
- Tithing unto the Lord is something that is carried through in the New Testament.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 “¹Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. ²Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

- We're pretty low key about tithing, the agape box is at the back to receive tithes and offerings.
- Jesus taught that it was to be a private or discreet thing and so we try to stick with that for the most part.

2 Corinthians 9:7 “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

- Giving to the Lord should be a joyful thing.
- When it comes up in our text we'll talk about it a little, just like everything else, then we move on.

V: 31 You shall be holy men unto Me – be careful what goes in – stay holy!

- No road kill, no leftovers from when the lions or the wolves, and the vultures have picked at it – it's become dog food.
- Jesus cautioned us on the same subject:

Matthew 18:8-9 “⁸Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. ⁹And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.”