Leviticus 24

Review…

- **Introduction - the book of Law…**
- **1st half of Leviticus - Ceremonial Holiness**
  - **Leviticus 1-10 - laws concerning the 4 sacrifices to the Lord - dedication of the priests…**
  - **Leviticus 11-15 - Clean and unclean / New baby / Infectious disease / discharges…**
  - **Leviticus 16 - Yom Kippur - The day of Atonement…**
- **2nd half of Leviticus - Practical Holiness**
  - **Leviticus 17-18 - Killing animals for food / Sexual purity…**
  - **Leviticus 19 - The heart of the Law - be Holy…**
    - God commanded Israel to be Holy - because the Lord is Holy!
    - By being a Holy nation - they would be a light to the dark and lost world!
  - **Leviticus 20 - The death penalty…**
    - Abortion / Mediums - psychics / Cursing your parents / Sexual immorality
    - It only takes a 'little' mud to make a glass of water dirty - **I Corinthians 5:6**
    - Israel was to be Holy - they were not to allow sin to remain in their community...
  - **Leviticus 21-22 - The holiness of the priests / perfect sacrifices…**
  - **Leviticus 23 - The 7 feasts of Israel…**
    - The 4 Spring Feasts - Passover / Unleavened bread / 1st Fruits / Pentecost...
    - The 3 Fall Feasts - Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur / Sukkoth...
    - Fulfilled in the 1st and 2nd advents of Jesus Christ!

The Oil and the Show bread… vs. 1-9

- **The oil of the Menorah… vs. 1-4**
  - In the Tabernacle - outside of the veil – was the menorah…
    - The candlestick – with 6 branches coming out of the main stem...
    - It had gold cups on the top of each stem to hold pure olive oil to burn for light…
    - In was a 7 stemmed / 7' tall candle stick made of over 75lbs of solid gold!
    - In the Bible 7 is the number of perfection – the Menorah was the perfect light!

- The purpose of the candle stick – menorah…
  - It was the only light in the Tabernacle – it lit the path to get to God…
  - **John 8:12** – "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.'"
  - Jesus is our Menorah – our perfect light – who shows us the only way to get to God…
- The priests were to keep the lights burning night and day…
  - The world is lost in darkness - and they need someone to light the way to God...
    - *** I Peter 2:9** - "You are a chosen people. You are a kingdom of priests, God's holy nation, His very own possession. This is so you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light."
    - We are the priests of God - He called us out of the dark world - saved us...
    - So we could show our family / friends / anyone who will listen - the way to Jesus...
  - The problem is we have a hard time keeping the fire burning...
    - If you are like me - sometimes that fire seems to waver - not burn very bright...
    - We get caught up in the daily concerns of our life - we get tempted by the world...
    - The way to keep the fires burning strong - was the 'pure' oil of the olive tree...
    - Because it was readily available in Israel - there are olive groves everywhere...
    - Because in order to get the oil - you have to crush the olives...
  - Who does God use as a light to a lost world...
    - He uses the one who is readily available - the person who is willing to be used!
    - God is not looking for our qualifications - He is looking for our availability...
    - He then takes those who are willing - and makes them qualified to do His work!
  - In order to be used - we must first be crushed...
    - *** II Corinthians 1:8-9** - "We were crushed and completely overwhelmed, and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we learned not to rely on ourselves..."
    - Nothing restricts the ability for God to use us more than our pride...
    - Only when we come to the end of ourselves - learn to completely depend on God...
    - Only when our pride has been crushed - are we ready to shine for Jesus!

- **The 12 loaves of bread… vs. 5-9**
  - In the Tabernacle - across from the Menorah - was the Table…
    - A wooden table – 3' long x 1.5' wide x 2' high – overlaid with gold…
    - It also had 4 gold rings on its sides – used to insert 2 gold poles to carry it…
  - The purpose of the table…
    - On top of the table there would be 12 loaves of bread – one for each of the 12 tribes…

- God kept a reminder of all His people before Him in the Tabernacle…
- Like the pictures of people we keep who are important to us – to remember them…
- The same is true in about God – our heavenly father is always thinking about us!
- **Psalms 139:17** – "How precious are your thoughts about me, O God! They are innumerable!"

- The priests were to always keep fresh bread on the table...
  - Every Sabbath day the bread was replaced with fresh loaves...
  - It was the weekly meal to be enjoyed in the presence of the Lord...
    - **John 6:48** - "Yes, I am the [rice] of life!"
    - We gather together once a week - on our Sabbath - to enjoy a feast before the Lord...
    - Not a feast of food - but of the rice of life - Sunday service in the Word!
    - Each week we get a fresh offering - a refreshing meal to strengthen our Spirit!
  - That does not mean you only eat once a week...
    - * **Psalms 1:1-2** - "Blessed is the man... [whose] delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night."
    - If you only ate a meal once a week - you would be VERY hungry 6 days of the week...
    - We need to be daily partaking of the 'rice' of life - reading our Bible...
    - Spending time with the Lord - so we can be strong - a light for the Lord!

ACCOUNTABILITY… VS. 10-23

- **ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOUR WORDS… VS. 10-16**
  - A man got into a fight - and blasphemed (*mocked*) the name of the Lord…
    - The man was the son of an Israelite woman - and Egyptian man...
    - The suggestion being he was raised with mixed values...
    - He knew about the Lord (*Mother*) - but perhaps was also filled with the world (*Father*)
    - * **II Corinthians 6:14** - "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers..."
    - There have been many women who were convinced they were 'in love'...
    - The only problem was their 'man' was not a Christian (*in his actions*)...
    - But they were convinced they could change him - make him into a Godly man...
    - Only to end up in a devastating marriage - with children who learned mixed values...

- Be very careful who you choose to be your husband / wife...
- Find a man or woman who loves the Lord - not just in words - but also in actions!
- Because we cannot change people - God can - but there is no guarantee He will...

- The man was put in prison - that the mind of the Lord might be shown to Israel...
  - The people did not want to just react - they wanted to hear from the Lord...
    - Too often people react - then take the time to think about how they responded...
    - Better to think first - about what we are going to say - or do...
    - Then have to try and take back harmful words - or hurtful actions...
    - **Proverbs 13:3** - "Those who control their tongue will have a long life; a quick [response] can ruin everything."
  - Anyone who blasphemes the Lord - was to be put to death...
    - I am sure if the man could have taken back his words - he would have...
    - But once we let the words escape from our mouth - there is no taking them back...
    - Words said in haste - in anger - carelessly - can have serious consequences...
    - * **James 3:3-6** - "The tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do."
    - Our tongue is such a small part of our body - but it can do so much harm...
    - When we choose to pass on the latest juicy stories - gossip...
    - When we use sarcasm - trying to be funny - but instead cutting those we love...
    - When we blurt out things in anger - things we wish we had not said...
    - Time will heal many kinds of wounds - but words leave marks that last a lifetime...
    - We need to be accountable for our words - careful with what we say...
    - **James 1:19** - "My dear brothers and sisters, be quick to listen, slow to speak..."
  - God commanded Israel to stone the man to death...
    - Those who heard the 'curse' - had to lay their hands on him - accountability...
    - Then all the people of Israel had to take part in his execution...
    - If we are not careful with our words - we will have to face the consequences...
    - The loss of a friendship / hurting those we love...

- **Accountable for your actions… vs. 17-23**
  - Death for murder…
    - God's reaffirms the Law for murder with the intent to protect/preserve life…
    - He does it through the deterrent of the death penalty for murder...
    - God here shows that nothing is more precious than human life...
    - The reason – man is created in the image of God: body, soul, spirit
    - One of the premier characteristics of a Godly society is the 'sanctity of life'...

- Muslims walk into Jewish stores and blow themselves up – homicide bomber…
- The Jews will take any victim – muslim or Jewish into the hospital to keep them alive...
- Because the Jews believe in the 'sanctity of life' any life – created in the image of God!

- If you killed an animal - you had to replace it...
  - It did not matter if it was intentional - or accidental...
  - You were accountable - you were to pay the consequences for your actions...
  - God intended the Law to be very practical - just – and fair...
  - It is meant to teach consequences for action – your actions come with a price...
  - Our actions do have consequences - what you sow you will also reap...
  - * **Galatians 6:7** - "God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."
  - Just as there are physical consequences to actions - being hit with a hammer hurts...
  - If you live your whole life eating fatty salty food - it will affect your health...
  - There are also just as certain - spiritual consequences to our actions...
  - If you life you whole life drinking - it may cost your marriage / family / or even life...
  - If you go around getting into fights - you will die fighting - **Matthew 26:52**
  - Not making God a part of our daily lives - means we will not prosper in life...
  - When we realize the consequence for our actions - we are much more careful…
- An eye for an eye / tooth for a tooth…
  - The idea being equal reprisal – you could only do to others what they did to you
    - It was not meant to be vindictive – it was meant to be limiting...
    - Consequences to actions had to be in equal proportion to the crime...
    - You weren't allowed to do more to someone in revenge than they had done...
    - Serving a cup of coffee that was hot and burnt a person - 50 billion peso fine...
    - Your chickens eat someone's crop - so they kill your chickens...
    - Someone hits you and knocks out a tooth - so you put them in the hospital...
    - When someone wrongs us - we don't want justice - we want vengeance...
  - Jesus picked up on this Law in the NT and elaborated – **Luke 6:29**
    - Where the Law says – if someone hits us – we can only hit them back (*equal*)
    - Love says - If someone hit you in the face - turn the other cheek…
    - Even sinners love to that love them back – that does not show we know God…

        - It is by loving those who hurt us – that is when we shine for Jesus!
    - So shine for Jesus - and be careful of your words/actions...
        - Be a light to those who do not know Jesus - be available / dependant on Jesus...
        - Strong in the Lord - partaking daily from His Word (*and on Sundays*)...
        - Watching your words - knowing they have the power to build up or tear down...
        - Being careful of your actions - knowing they have consequences...
        - Loving towards others - even when they are not so nice to us...
        - So that those who don't know Jesus - might see Him in our lives - and believe!