Deuteronomy 23-24

Review…

- **Deuteronomy 1-4 - The 1st sermon - rehearsing the history…**
- **Deuteronomy 5-26 - The 2nd sermon - The Law of God…**
- **Deuteronomy 21-22 - Various laws for Israel…**
  - Do not be quick to marry - if you see a beautiful woman shave her head...
    - If you still want to marry her after a month - go ahead - but choose wisely...
    - Because when marriages fall apart - it is the children who suffer!
  - Things Israel was not to do...
    - Do not wear the clothes of the opposite gender - it is a slap in the face of God...
    - Do not eat both the chicken and the eggs - be wise with what God has provided...
    - Do not let your brother fall off your roof - be responsible to keep him safe from harm...
    - Do not plow with a caribou and donkey - we are not to be unequally yoked
  - Be pure before the Lord...
    - Do not have a relationship before you are married - keep yourself pure...
    - But if you make a mistake - know there is forgiveness and purity in Jesus!

Deuteronomy 23-24 - Marriage and money (*5 things*)…

- **1st - Forbidden to come before the Lord… (*3 groups*) vs. 1-8** Read: Deuteronomy 23:2-4
  - 1st - Born out of wedlock - to the 10th generation... vs. 2
    - The problem was - no way to affirm whom the parents were - if they were Jewish...
      - The mother might be Jewish - but there was not way to tell who was the father...
      - He could have been from one of the nations forbidden to enter the Tabernacle...
    - Broken families keep children from walking with the Lord...
      - When a child grows up without the love of a father and mother - it does damage...
      - Children from broken families are twice a likely to drop out of school / get pregnant...
      - 70 percent of all long term prisoners - grew up in a broken home...
      - The fall out of a broken home is a broken child - one who is far from the Lord!
  - 2nd - Egyptian (*Israel had been a stranger*) or an Edomite - to the 3rd generation... vs. 7-8
    - Edom was the home of the descendents of Esau - brother of Jacob/Israel...
      - Two brothers - Jacob and Esau - that represent two very different nations...
      - Jacob became Israel - a man governed by God - became a Godly nation...

        - Esau was only concerted about his daily needs - sold his birthright for soup...
    - His decedents followed his example - they cared very little about God...
        - An encouragement – or warning – be a good example to our family...
        - If we do not like what you see in our children - look in the mirror...
        - Our kids are a reflection of us - they follow in our footsteps!
        - They are going to grow up to be just like - for good or for bad...
- 3rd - Moabite or an Ammonite - to the 10th generation... vs. 3-6
    - They were close relatives of Israel...
        - Lot was the nephew of Abraham - compromised and moved to the city of Sodom...
        - His two daughters believed that everyone had perished in the destruction...
        - Morally corrupted by Sodom - their solution was to get pregnant by their father...
        - Gave birth to Ben-Ammi – father of the Ammonites / Moab – father of the Moabites
    - But they did not meet Israel with bread and water coming out of Egypt...
        - In fact they hired Balaam to try and curse Israel - but God would not listen to him...
        - So Israel was never to allowed to help the Moabites as long as they lived!
    - Yet Ruth was from the tribe of Moab - and her grandson was King David - **Ruth 2:6**
        - Just because we were given a bad example - does not mean we have to follow it...
        - We can break the cycle - follow Jesus - and be restored to fellowship with God!

- **2ND - KEEPING THE CAMP CLEAN... VS. 9-14** READ: DEUTERONOMY 23:12-14
    - When you go to war - and need to do your business - bring a shovel...
        - You had to mark off an area outside the camp designated at a CR...
        - When you went - you had to dig a ditch - then cover it up again afterwards...
        - The reason is because God walked among His people - and He wanted a clean camp!
    - We are the 'tent' that God lives inside of - He makes His home in our heart...
        - **I Corinthians 6:19** - "Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you..."
        - When God walks around - does He find our hearts clean - pure before Him...
        - Or are there images - thoughts - that we would be ashamed to admit were ours...
        - If there are sins in our hearts - trash - we need to repent - burry them...
        - Making our heart a place that Jesus is proud to call His home!

- **3RD - ABOUT THE MONEY... VS. 15-25 (*5 THINGS*)** READ: DEUTERONOMY 23:15-25
    - 1st - If a slave runs away - you could not take him back to his master... vs. 15-16
        - You had to let him choose a place to live - and you could mistreat them...
            - The assumption is they ran away from bondage - so God could set them free...

        - They came to Israel - so they could learn about God - start a new life!
    - Those who do not know Jesus are slaves to this world - **Romans 6:16**
        - But they can run to Jesus - and He can set them free - **John 8:36**
        - We are to receive them - accept them in the church - not hold their past against them...
- 2nd - A 'daughter of Israel' - could not become a prostitute... vs. 17-18
    - The thought is a woman who turns to desperate measure to make money...
        - In times of desperation - people turn to extreme measures to make ends meet...
        - People are willing to make - and justify - all manner of compromises...
        - It may not go to the extreme of prostitution - but it is compromise nonetheless...
        - Selling things that are not good - though we justify we do not use them...
    - They wages of a prostitute were forbidden to be given to the Lord...
        - God will not bless us when we strive to get money through compromise...
        - It is worthwhile to stand up for Biblical principals - God will provide all our needs!
- 3rd - You could not charge interest to an Israelite - for food or money... vs. 19-20
    - If we need money - it is a good idea not to borrow money…
        - **Romans 13:8 –** "Owe no one anything except to love one another..."
        - We can look to borrow from someone – but then we learn to depend on men…
        - We also tend to borrow more than we can afford – no way to pay it back…
        - We end up in bondage to debt – crushed under the weight of what we borrowed!
        - Rather than borrowing money – seek the Lord to provide for what you need…
        - God promises to provide for our needs – so if we don't have it we must not need it!
    - Israel could lend money to other nations…
        - If you want to lend money - it is better not to lend to family / friends / church...
        - The reason is it often does not go well - people are thrilled when they get money…
        - But then avoid the lender like the plague when it comes time to be paid back…
        - Rather than lend money to those close to you - better to simple give it if you have it…
- 4th - When you made a promise to the Lord - you had to keep it... vs. 21-23
    - Too often we speak - then we stop to think about what we said...
        - Better to think first what we are going to say - the consequence of our words...
        - It is easy to say something - it is almost impossible to take our words back...
        - **James 1:19** - "My dear brothers, be quick to listen, slow to speak..."
        - When we promise to help someone out - give them our time / or money...
        - But then when they are counting on us - we are not faithful to our word...
    - God does not treat our words lightly - He expects us to fulfill our promises...
        - If we do not follow through with our promise - then it is sin...
        - If we are not sure we can keep a promise - better to say nothing - **Ecclesiastes 5:5**
- 5th - Harvesting your neighbors crops... vs. 24-25
    - God did not want His people to go hungry - they could eat from their neighbor's fields...
    - But they were not allowed to harvest - they could only eat what they could hold - **Luke 6:1**

- If someone comes over and has no food - and we do - make sure they are fed...
- But we should not be their harvest - we do not want them to depend on us and not the Lord!

- **4TH - DIVORCE / MARRIAGE... VS. 1-4 (*3 THINGS*)** READ: DEUTERONOMY 24:1-5
  - 1st - If a man finds an 'uncleanness' in his wife - he can write a bill of divorce... vs. 1
    - The problem is Moses gave no definition of what qualified as 'uncleanness'...
      - There was a wide range of interpretations - burnt rice / find a prettier woman...
      - Jesus clarified this law in the NT - when questions by the leaders - **Mark 10:1-16**
      - 1st - Divorce is only allowed if there is adultery in the marriage...
      - 2nd - Death – If your spouse dies – you can remarry - **Romans 7:2**
      - 3rd - Abandonment – unbelieving spouse leaves permanently - **I Corinthians 7:15**
    - But Moses only allowed for divorce because of the hardness of men's hearts...
      - It was not Gods desire - God meant for marriage to last for a lifetime!
      - Marriage is meant to help us understand God's love for us - children / bride...
    - Marriage impacts our understanding of God's love…
      - That is why satan takes such an effort in destroying marriages...
      - With no love in marriage - understanding of God's Love is damaged...
      - The greatest gift we can ever give to our kids is to show them a loving marriage!
      - It is through our love and example that our kids learn of God's love!
  - 2nd - If the wife remarries - the first husband cannot remarry her... vs. 2-4
    - If the 2nd husband of the wife dies - or the 2nd husband also divorces the wife...
    - It would be an abomination for the wife to remarry her 1st husband!
    - God described His relationship with Israel as a marriage - but Israel was unfaithful...
    - They walked away from the Lord - choose to give themselves to the world - but...
    - **Jeremiah 3:1** - "If a man divorces a woman and she marries someone else, he is not to take her back again... But you have prostituted yourself with many lovers, says the LORD. Yet I am still calling you to come back to me."
    - When we make mistakes - choose to run from the Lord - give ourselves to the world...
    - We separate ourselves from Jesus - but He is always willing to take us back!
  - 3rd - Dedicate your first year of marriage to your wife... vs. 5
    - Simply put - God knew a wife needed time with her husband!
    - I have met many a father who thought his main purpose was to make money...
    - God doesn't call men to provide for their families- He provides for us - **Matthew 6:33**
    - Too many Dads work 6 maybe 7 days a week - from morning till night...

- Or have to work far away - only coming to visit every couple of years...
- Their wives never get to see them - never spend time with them...
- Husbands - the one thing our wife NEEDS from us - is that we spend time with them!

- **5TH - MORE ABOUT THE MONEY... VS. (*4 THINGS*) 5-22** READ: DEUTERONOMY 24:10-22
  - 1st - If you take a pledge for a loan... vs. 6, 10-13, 17-18
    - You cannot take the livelihood of the person - keeping them from making money...
      - You cannot go into their house to take the pledge - they have to give it to you...
      - You cannot keep the pledge over night (*blanket*) - they might need it to stay warm...
      - You could not take advantage of a stranger - or a widow...
    - God wanted to instill in Israel the principal people were more important than money...
      - There are many people who will do anything for a peso - no thought for others...
      - The examples would be 'those who take pensions' or 'pawn shops'…
      - They care nothing for the people – only to make money at the expense of the poor…
      - **Proverbs 28:8** – "A person who makes money by charging interest will lose it. It will end up in the hands of someone who is kind to the poor."
      - Taking advantage of others may gain momentary wealth - but then God opposes you...
      - So many people try and rip off others just to make a few extra pesos...
      - Missing the blessings of God - that would bring eternal riches!
  - 2nd - You must pay your workers every day... vs. 14-15
    - If those who work for you have no food - and you do not pay them promptly (*daily*)...
    - And they cry out to the Lord because of their hunger - it is counted as sin...
    - We are not just think about ourselves - put others first - consider their needs as well!
  - 3rd - We are responsible for our own actions... vs. 16
    - A father could not be put to death for the sins of his son / or a son because of his father...
    - Meaning if someone else owes a debt - we are not responsible for it...
    - If you are walking through the market - and someone want you to pay for someone else...
    - Each of us is only responsible for our own debts - not even our immediate families!
  - 4th - Leave part of your harvest for the poor... vs. 19-22
    - The corners of your field - and anything that you accidentally dropped...
    - It allowed for Israel to be a blessing - give to those who were in need...
    - It was not given for free - you still had to work...
    - The food was not gathered and given to the poor - they had to work to collect it...

- **II Thessalonians 3:10** - "If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat."
- We are called to bless those who are in need - but not to encourage laziness...