

Exodus 21-23

The Book of the Covenant

April 11, 2021 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Exodus 21:1 - Now these are the ordinances/rules which you shall set before them.

Exodus 24:7 - Moses took *the Book of the Covenant* and read it to the people.

Lesson #1 - Be humble and helpful

Exodus 21:2 - If you buy a Hebrew servant...

v. 16 - He who kidnaps a man and sells him, or if he is found in his hand he shall surely be put to death.

1. Service was voluntary.

Leviticus 25:39 - "If any of your fellow Israelites becomes *poor* and sells themselves to you..."

2. Service was temporary.

v. 2 - "If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve *six years*; and in the seventh he shall *go out free* and pay nothing."

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3. Service was intended to lead to freedom.

Deut. 15:12-15 - If any of your people sell themselves to you and serve you six years, in the seventh year you must let them go free. And when you release them, don't send them away empty-handed. Supply them liberally from your flock, your threshing floor and your winepress. Give to them as the LORD your God has blessed you. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you. That's why I give you this command today.

"Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you."

Egypt. Don't take advantage of the widow or the fatherless."

James 1:27 - Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

v. 5 - But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I won't go out free,' then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

Psalm 40:6-8 - Sacrifice and offering You didn't desire-- but my ears You have pierced -- burnt offerings and sin offerings You didn't require. Then I said, "Here I am, I've come-- it's written about me in the scroll. I desire to do Your will, my God; Your law is within my heart."

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Lesson #2 - Be fair--or better yet, be merciful

21:24 - Eye for an eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

Mt. 5:38-39 - "You've heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you... If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also."

Micah 7:18 - God pardons sin... and delights to show mercy.

Isaiah 50:6 - I offered My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who tore out My beard. I didn't hide My face from mocking and spitting.

Lesson #3 - Be loving and kind.

23:4-5 - "If you come across your enemy's ox or donkey wandering off, be sure to return it. If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, don't leave it there; you must help him with it."

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Mt. 5:43-45 - "You've heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor' and 'Hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven. For He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good."

1 Cor. 11:23-26 - For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He'd given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim *the Lord's death till He comes.*

1 Cor. 11:23 Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

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In Exodus 21-23, we find 85 rules for daily life.

It's called the Book of the Covenant.

Exodus 24:7 - Moses took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people.

Lesson #1 - Be _____

1. Service was _____.

Leviticus 25:39 - "If any of your fellow Israelites becomes poor and sells themselves to you..."

2. Service was _____.

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3. Service was intended to _____.

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