

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 04 Dec Num 1:1-8:26 Stay True to Your Commitments
- 2) 11 Dec Num 9:1-10:10 Stay on Track with God's GPS
- 3) 18 Dec Num 10:11-15:41 Stay Fearless in Your Obedience
- 4) 25 Dec Num 24:15-19; Mat 1:1-2:23 The Messiah has Come
- 5) 01 Jan 2012 Num 16:1-25:18 Stay Grateful for God's Care
- 6) 08 Jan Num 26:1-36:13 Stay Focused on the Goal
- 7) 15 Jan Deut 5:19;24; Mat 5 **Be Resolute about Life's value**
- 8) 22 Jan Deut 1:1-4:43 Be Exclusive
- 9) 29 Jan Deut 4:44-11:32 Be Passionate
- 10) 05 Feb Deut 12:1-16:17 Be Different
- 11) 12 Feb Deut 16:18-26:19 Be Honest and Fair
- 12) 19 Feb Deut 27:1-30:20 Be Repentant
- 13) 26 Feb Deut 31:1-34:12 Be Positive

INTRODUCTION

- Should our value of life match what we see in the Bible?
- If so, how do we view passages in the Bible where God's people are commanded to kill without showing pity or mercy, and yet they are commanded to show compassion and mercy to others?
 - ♦ Does the type of crime make the difference?
 - ♦ Does the intent of the heart of a criminal make the difference?

Passage	Comments
Deut 5:1-33	<p>10 Commandments – Contradiction or Controversy?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v9. God visits the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the 3rd & 4th generation. Do we have a contradiction since Ezekiel 18 states each man will answer for his own sins? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ NO! The rest of v9 specifies the iniquity of the fathers follows those descendants who hate God ♦ Also, Ezek 18:17 tells us God will not visit the father's iniquity on the children if the children avoid the ways of their fathers ♦ Generational Curses. If a father is abusive, lazy, an alcoholic, or lecherous, often times the kids for several generations are too – The key to breaking a generational curse is for the kids to willingly seek after God's ways – Replace bad habits with good habits • vv14-15. Do we still need to keep the Sabbath day? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Not like the Jews! We were never slaves in Egypt (v15). Nor has God made a covenant with our nation and land as He did with Israel ♦ But, like the Jews – we should have a Sabbath day of rest and worship to honor God and receive His general blessings • v17. 'Thou shalt not kill' vs kill with no pity (19:13) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Can both these statements be true?YES! ♦ When is it OK to kill, and it is not murder? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War, self-defense • Judicial execution for murder, kidnapping, rape, adultery, and idolatry ♦ When is it against God's will to kill a fellow human? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal agenda due to greed, hatred, or anger
Political Thot: Do people respect the Law of the Land Today?	<p>Capital Punishment. If all 50 states were to abolish capital punishment (16 states have already done so), there is nothing biblically wrong with that stance since God never demanded nations, other than Israel, to institute such a practice – though there would be sociological repercussions for unappeased justice</p> <p>Consider This: 30 years ago almost all 50 states had capital punishment and there were only 250,000 people in prisons throughout America. TODAY, more states are contemplating eliminating capital punishment and we have more than 2,500,000 people in U.S. prisons</p>

Passage	Comments
Deut 19:1-21	<p>Protect the Innocent, Slay the Guilty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v13. For Israel to prosper they needed to purge evil from their midst • vv19-20. Purge the evil and society will respect the Law • v21. Life for Life – Just recompense for crimes. Show No Pity – in other words, be true to execute true justice • If we shy away from rendering equitable justice will society get worse or better over time? • Note: Israel's neighbors had no limits on vengeance, so <i>lex talionis</i> (i.e., <i>life for life</i>) was a new concept
Deut 24:1-22	<p>Diverse Laws to Protect a Good Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. Though divorce was permitted, it was never sanctioned in the Bible; and mercy to a divorced woman was demanded since most of the time she was "put away" for unjust reasons • vv2-4. Divorced/Remarried women were forbidden to go back to their 1st husband. Do Not Pollute the Land (Israelite-applicability only to preserve the tribal lineage and prevent 'Who's Your Daddy' syndrome) • v5. Marriage is so important for a society that God even had the husband avoid military orders the first year so his marriage could get off to a good start • Do we treat marriages with high priority today? • v19. Do not glean your fields completely. In other words, don't be greedy with your business dealings and try to squeeze every nickel & dime. Be generous
Matthew 5:17-26	<p>Christ Came Not to Destroy the Law but to Fulfill It</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circumcision for Gentile converts not required • Animal sacrifice now obsolete • New freedom to eat all kinds of foods, including lobster

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- The best answer for killing or not to kill is determined from the context of the passage
 - ♦ Where Scripture said to kill without showing pity or mercy there was outright wickedness involved (i.e., bestiality, child sacrifice, murder, etc.) – a good society must be protected
 - ♦ Where Scripture says to show compassion to the weak (who were not considered wicked), it is again to protect and preserve a good society
 - ♦ SO, we must know what a good society looks like

NEXT WEEK:

Deuteronomy 1-4. These early chapters re-iterate what was detailed in Numbers 1-33, and culminate in exhortations to observe God's commandments whole-heartedly. Israel's safety and prosperity depend on their loyalty and obedience to God

