

Quarter Three: Exodus: Journey to the Promised Land

Jill Morikone

Lesson 9—Living the Law

Monday: More Laws

August 25, 2025

- **Last Week:** “Covenant at Sinai”
 - Exodus 19 – 20:17
 - Israel at Mt Sinai & the giving of the 10 commandments
- **This Week:** “Living the Law”
 - Exodus 21 – 23
 - God’s system of government & laws established at Sinai
 - The law is holy, just & good
 - The law is also protection against danger & evil

Memory Text: “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: “You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. You shall not make anything to be with Me—gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves”’” (Ex. 20:22, 23, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** The Code of Covenant (John L)
 - Ex 21:1 – 32 – book of the covenant – additional laws & regulations, applying the principles of the law to everyday life
 - Slavery, violence & animal control laws
- 2. **Monday:** More Laws (Jill)
 - Ex 22:1 – 23:19 – property; moral & ceremonial principles, justice, law of Sabbaths & annual feasts
- 3. **Tuesday:** God’s Original Plan (Ryan J)
 - Ex 23:20 – 33 – God’s plan for conquering the promised land
- 4. **Wednesday:** An Eye for an Eye (John D)
 - Matt 5 – Jesus’ restoration of the retaliation law (from Ex 21:24); proper application of the OT laws
- 5. **Thursday:** Vengeance (James)
 - Various Scriptures – Jesus’ restoration of the principles of reward & punishment; how to avoid perverting justice

Monday: More Laws

Exodus 22:1 – 23:19

- Beautiful portions of the Bible
 - Jesus & the plan of salvation
 - Interplay of the law & the gospel
 - Truth to be discovered – including the Sanctuary

- Difficult portions of the Bible
 - Theological difficulties (Peter, Paul is hard to understand)
 - Commands cut against the natural heart
 - Genealogies – boring, hard to understand
 - Ceremonial law (Book of the Covenant) in Exodus & Leviticus
 - Can degenerate into do's & don'ts's
 - Can get lost in the nitty gritty
 - Need a certain mind to appreciate
 - More laws = policies & procedures of an organization
 - How to apply the principles of God's law in everyday life
 - *Jill write
- **Two-fold purpose:** (Ex 22:1 – 23:19 / 50 verses)
 - 1. Look for Biblical principles
 - 2. Takeaway for each principle = how we discover Jesus in these laws
 - Sampling of what's provided here
- **Principle #1: Make restitution: don't do the bare minimum**
 - Ex 22:1 – “If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall restore five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep.”
 - Give much more than expected: Ratio of 5 to 1 / 4 to 1
 - NT, Zacchaeus made restitution, as well (Luke 19)
 - Gave half of his goods to the poor
 - If took wrongfully, would restore 4-fold
 - **Takeaway #1: Jesus gave all**
 - Not halfway or the bare minimum – He gave all
 - Rom 8:32 – “God who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”
- **Principle #2: Right wrongs: look out for the interests of others**
 - Ex 22:5 – “If a man causes a field or vineyard to be grazed, and lets loose his animal, and it feeds in another man's field, he shall make restitution from the best of his own field and the best of his own vineyard.”
 - Could argue that you didn't know your animal was going into someone else's yard
 - No excuse
 - Look for the best for your neighbor
 - **Takeaway #2: Jesus considers other's interests, before His own**
 - Phil 2:3, 5 – “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.... (5) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”
- **Principle #3: Extenuating circumstances apply: some things are an accident**
 - Ex 22:13 – “If it is torn to pieces by a beast, then he shall bring it as evidence, and he shall not make good what was torn.”
 - *Common sense
 - Understand that accidents happen

- Not always required to restore what is out of your control
- **Takeaway #3: Jesus always judges fairly**
 - Perfect balance of justice & mercy, because love = justice & mercy
 - 2 Tim 4 – the Lord, the righteous Judge
 - John 5:30 – Jesus – “My judgment is just”
 - 1 Pet 2:23 – God judges fairly
 - Ps 7:11 – “God is a just Judge...”
- **Principle #4: Sexual relationships are sacred: don’t venture outside God’s boundaries**
 - Ex 22:16 – “If a man entices a virgin who is not betrothed, and lies with her, he shall surely pay the bride-price for her to be his wife.”
 - If a man has a sexual relationship with a virgin, he needs to marry her
 - (Seduction is a type of theft of a girl’s reputation, so is included in the laws governing theft)
 - Sex matters, it is not to be taken lightly, it is only within the boundaries of what God has established
 - **Takeaway #4: Jesus gives boundaries for our protection & joy**
 - Boundaries / parameters are for our security, our protection, our joy & pleasure
 - John 8:36 – “Whoever the Son sets free, is free indeed.”
 - God provides freedom – sin is restrictive, sin places in bondage
 - 2 Pet 2:19 – “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.”
- **Principle #5: Idolatry is a big deal: do not hold anything in place of God**
 - Ex 22:20 – “He who sacrifices to any god, except to the Lord only, he shall be utterly destroyed.”
 - Strong discipline: if you’re an idol worshiper, you will be destroyed
 - **Takeaway #5: Our God is a jealous God**
 - Ex 20:5 - “you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me...”
 - God owns us – He wants no idols pulling our affection from Him
 - Love God; love Him supremely
 - Evil jealousy = jealous of
 - Jealous of their car, home, wife, life
 - Godly jealousy = jealous for
 - Because it already belongs to God
 - 2 Cor 11:2 – “For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”

- **Principle #6: Care for the weak: Live kindly, treat others fairly, uplift the oppressed**
 - Ex 22:21 – 24 – “You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. (22) You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. (23) If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry; (24) and My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.”
 - God calls us to treat others right: lift up the oppressed, help the stranger, the fatherless, the widow
 - Micah 6:8 - do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God
 - **Takeaway #6: Jesus’ mission was to uplift the downtrodden & relieve the oppressed**
 - Luke 4:18 – “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recover of sight the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”
 - Jesus in Nazareth
- **Principle #7: Consecrate everything to God: your home, your family, your income**
 - Ex 22:29 – “You shall not delay to offer the first of your ripe produce and your juices. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me.”
 - Previous lesson – consecration of the firstborn
 - Principle is everything belongs to God
 - **Takeaway #7: Jesus surrendered all & asks for us to do the same**
 - Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane – Luke 22
 - Father, not My will, but Thine be done
 - Our role – Luke 9:23
 - Take up your cross daily and follow Me
 - Rom 12:1 – present your bodies a living sacrifice
- **Principle #8: Love your enemies: do good to those who dislike you**
 - Ex 23:5 – “If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it.”
 - Easy to think – I won’t harm them or do them evil
 - God calls us to do good to them
 - **Takeaway #8: Jesus loved & forgave His enemies**
 - Luke 23:34 - Father forgive them for they know not what they do
- **Principle #9: Help the poor: give of yourself for those less fortunate**
 - Ex 23:10, 11 – “Six years you shall sow your land and gather in its produce, (11) but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave, the beasts of the field may eat....”
 - Provide rest & relief to both humans & animals who are struggling
 - Go out of your way (lose money yourself) to help others
 - **Takeaway #9: Jesus lived to bless others**
 - From the cradle to the cross, He lived to bless others
 - Matt 20:28 – the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many