

GPS: God's Positioning System (Turn with me to Exodus 21-23)

Intro/Review:

Continued study of Exodus

Rob last taught 10 Commandments - God's introduction of the Law

Ex 21:1 "Now these *are* the judgments which you shall set before them" (application of Law)

These judgments:

- Were given to set the people of Israel apart
- Became precedents for all future issues
- Gave direction to the people traveling to the Promised Land

*****God's laws and judgments would show them a whole new way of being human**

- The laws were not designed for human doing but for human being

*****God's people had never been into the Promised Land.**

*****They did not even know the Way. They needed a GPS**

*****God's Laws and Judgments became a GPS**

- (i.e. cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night_
-

Story of RV trip - I needed a GPS

- I don't think our highways and byways are the only place in life that we need a GPS
- We can turn on the GPS, but we have to actually follow it

*****We need a GPS "God's Positioning System" (GPS)**

What 3 things make a GPS work correctly?

- Where is my starting point
- Where is my destination
- Where am I in relationship to my starting point and destination

*****Sadly, the generation of the people of Israel never made it to their destination**

*****I believe God has something better for us . . . Jesus has shown us the Way**

This morning, I believe our study of God's word will provide for us a GPS, showing us:

- 1.) the location of where we should start,
- 2.) indication if we are heading in the right direction, and
- 3.) the destination we were destined for

Our outline will be as follows:

- A. Know Your Starting Location
- B. Check Your Direction
- C. Arrive at Your Destination

Let's Pray

I. Knowing Your Location - (Making Restoration)

Let's read Exodus 21:1-6

"Now these are the judgments which you shall set before them: ² If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing. ³ If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. ⁴ If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. ⁵ But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' ⁶ 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.

Context:

- Indentured servanthood in the Hebrew community was: **chosen and mutually arranged**
 - Our relationship with God is chosen and we mutually enter into a Covenant
- Servanthood was to be for a duration and was highly regulated
- Indentured servanthood provided a means for people to escape the hold of poverty
 - We too were in poverty before we came to Christ

In God's GPS, the correct starting location is absolutely essential

Knowing our identity as children of God is where we must start

To start with any other identity leaves us lost, confused and frustrated

Choice:

- If the man goes "out by himself" (lit. "with his back") -
The servant can leave the covenantal relationship of love, **but God's love is relentless**
-He goes after the 99
- Deut. 15:12-14 explains that the master provided provision for his slave when he left: from his own flock, from his own threshing floor, and out of his own winepress.
- In like manner, people often misunderstand and misinterpret the context of our relationship with God (**we are servants, but that is not all. We are also sons and daughters**)
- Story of Prodigal Son - We CAN go out, but SHOULD we?
- We have been given an inheritance as His children. What are we doing with it?

God's Positional System (GPS) starting location is set with a desire to RESTORE us

21:5 "But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free'"

- Love is always the catalyst for restoration and change
- Note: The servant's motive for devotion (**to stay**) is LOVE . . . **God IS Love**

Love and Delight Change Everything!

"The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives." — Psalm 37:23

The Father Delights in Restoring our Identity

***Zeph. 3:16 (rejoices/**delights** over us with gladness . . . quotes us with His love)

Hebrew word for "Delight" is "anag"

Delight means to:

- This word ('anag) is used for a garment that is delicate or luxurious (royal robe)
- Clothing oneself in an identity, through which we live out the full experience
- It means "to bend towards, to be inclined towards [an object or person]" in which we have relationship

The Father desires a relationship with you and I

- "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. (John 15:15)

The Father's Love Marks Us

His Love Changes What We Love

21:6 When you are marked as a son, you are part of the home (doorpost) and welcomed in

- Psalm 40:6 later spoke of this ceremony taking place between the Father and the Son, where the Psalmist spoke prophetically for the Messiah: *Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; my ears You have opened.* Jesus was a perfect servant and son to the Father
- "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit..." (Hebrews 12:4)
- When we are pierced by God's Word daily, we are never the same.
- We are restored to the image of Jesus.
- We become a son/daughter in full. We are being conformed into the image of THE SON

*****How have you been marked by the Father?**

**You can be a son or daughter, but are you living in the love of the Father?
Do you live in the Father's House**

In the story of the Prodigal Son, we often forget that there was another son.

¹¹ Then He said: "A certain man had **two sons** . . .

"Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.'

²⁸ "But he was angry and **would not go in**. Therefore his **father came out and pleaded with him**.

²⁹ So he answered and said to *his* father, '**Lo, these many years I have been serving you**; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends.

³¹ "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.

We can serve God, but miss the whole reason WHY we serve God

(22:6) " . . . and he shall serve him forever."

- The servant valued his love for God and love for others, even above his own freedom
- Moravians (selling themselves into slavery)
 - "We shall work as slaves among the slaves."
 - "May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering."
- "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. (John 13:45-46)

What keeps you from entering the Father's House?

- **Anger?**
- **Fear?**
- **Shame?**
- **Dissatisfaction?**

God's GPS is designed to Restore us to the proper starting location . . . our identity in Christ

The Father desires nothing more than to bring us into His house

***While Exodus 21 shows us the starting location of Restoration with God

We remember that the 2 greatest commandments are to Love God . . . and love others

***Exodus 22 highlights interactions with others.

***The judgments give us Direction in Moving towards others (2nd part of the GPS)

II. Check Your Direction (Making Reconciliation):

“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. ² If the thief is found breaking in, and he is struck so that he dies, *there shall be* no guilt for his bloodshed. ³ If the sun has risen on him, *there shall be* guilt for his bloodshed. He should make full restitution; if he has nothing, then he shall be sold^[a] for his theft. ⁴ **If the theft is certainly found alive in his hand, whether it is an ox or donkey or sheep, he shall restore double.**

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.**

⁶ “If fire breaks out and catches in thorns, so that stacked grain, standing grain, or the field is consumed, he who kindled the fire **shall surely make restitution.**

-----STOP Reading

⁷ “If a man delivers to his neighbor money or articles to keep, and it is stolen out of the man’s house, if the thief is found, **he shall pay double.** ⁸ If the thief is not found, then the master of the house shall be brought to the judges *to see* whether he has put his hand into his neighbor’s goods.

⁹ “For any kind of trespass, *whether it concerns* an ox, a donkey, a sheep, or clothing, *or* for any kind of lost thing which *another* claims to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; *and* whomever the judges condemn shall pay double to his neighbor. ¹⁰ If a man delivers to his neighbor a donkey, an ox, a sheep, or any animal to keep, and it dies, is hurt, or driven away, no one seeing *it*, ¹¹ *then* an oath of the LORD shall be between them both, that he has not put his hand into his neighbor’s goods; and the owner of it shall accept *that*, and he shall not make *it* good. ¹² But if, in fact, it is stolen from him, he shall **make restitution to the owner of it.** 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.

¹⁴“And if a man borrows *anything* from his neighbor, and it becomes injured or dies, the owner of it not *being* with it, **he shall surely make it good**. ¹⁵If its owner *was* with it, he shall not make *it* good; if it *was* hired, it came for its hire.

22:1-15 Responsibility of Property

- “Make full restitution (v.3, 6, 12)
- “Restore double (v.4, 7, 9)
- “Surely make it good” (v. 14)

God’s GPS demands that we reconcile and move in the direction of others

- Other religions state “Do Not . . .”
- Jesus taught a higher way (The Golden Rule) “Do unto others . . .”
- **The world’s GPS system has the wrong directions. (conditional respect, love, etc.)**
- Are we surprised that end up at the wrong destination.
- God modeled reconciliation. He first MOVED TOWARDS US. How much more then, should we move towards others?

***There was no jail time; the offender was required to **restore and reconcile**

***Restoration was double and even 5-fold

***Should not be merely punitive, but should be restorative - (Zaccheus - 4-fold return)

***We are expected to make right even when it was not deliberate in the offense (farm animal grazing on another’s property)

- Responsible not only for what we do, but for what we fail to do
- “If we now to do good, and do not do it, it is sin

22:5 Making restitution is not done with meagerness or slack, but rather with our **best efforts**

***We are often misguided when we attempt to use our own judgment or this world framework for justice. The world’s GPS system begins with the wrong destination, let alone the wrong starting point.

***The term “shalem” (שלם) implies making whole or repaying, a concept foundational to biblical justice.

***God modeled reconciliation. He first MOVED TOWARDS US.

***How much more then should we move towards others?

***We are to be ambassadors of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

***We are to live at PEACE with all men, if possible) . . .

*****Will God, all things are possible**

III. Arrive at Your Destination (Love)

- *“In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.”* (John 14:2)
- As a Son, Jesus shows us the way to live inside the Father’s house
- *“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”* (1 John 3:1)

“In Your presence there is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”
(Psalm 16:11)